FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 DECEMBER 1985

Jihad, Hizballah Claims on Plane Crash

An anonymous caller told a news agency in Beirut that the Islamic Jihad was responsible for the 12 December plane crash in Newfoundland in which 258 Americans died, AFP reported. The caller said an "explosion" was timed to take place as the plane landed in the United States but it happened in Canada because the plane was delayed during its stopover in the FRG. The Voice of Lebanon reported that a caller claiming to represent Hizballah telephoned France Inter to also claim responsibility for the plane crash.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported further air strikes 12-13 December, announcing that Iraqi planes raided Khark Island on three occasions, twice hit a "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast, and launched 171 attacks on Iranian troop concentrations. An Iranian communique cited by IRNA maintained, however, that Iranian planes and antiaircraft units thwarted all Iraqi air raids at the battlefronts 11-12 December.

An 11 December report on the war by the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* said France has supplied Iraq with large numbers of "devastating" new surface-to-air missiles for use against a major Iranian ground offensive, which "observers" believe will take place in the next 2 months.

Israel

Talks With Egypt — Both Israeli and Egyptian representatives to the Herzliyya talks indicated that "very serious progress" was made, IDF radio reported, adding that a document containing both sides' positions on arbitration of the Tabah dispute will now be submitted to the political leadership in Jerusalem and Cairo. The Israeli Cabinet will discuss the Tabah issue 18 December, *DAVAR noted, and close associates of Prime Minister Shim'on* Peres believe that he will be prepared to risk a government crisis over the arbitration issue. *DAVAR* also published the head of the Egyptian delegation's remark that other problems in bilateral relations, including the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv, will be solved if Israel agrees to arbitration.

Military Procurement in U.S. — Reacting to statements by U.S. customs officials concerning the illegal export of defense items to Israel, the Defense Ministry said it has not received notification from the United States about the latter's suspicions that the ministry made an improper procurement deal, Jerusalem radio reported. The ministry's spokesman stressed that its procurement deals in the United States are legal and authorized by U.S. authorities. The entire affair may be the result of a misunderstanding between different U.S. authorities, according to Israeli political circles cited by the radio.

Syria-Jordan

In the wake of the latest round of Jordanian-Syrian talks, Amman television announced that Jordan began supplying electricity to four major southern Syrian towns 12 December.

In another development, the Amman paper *SAWT AL-SHA'B* expressed support for Syrian military intervention to end the anarchy in Beirut, asserting that the deployment of Syrian forces may be the last resort.

Lebanon

The Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces will form a joint committee which will draft a plan to restructure the party and define its relationship with the Lebanese Forces, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed in a report on the party political bureau's 12 December meeting. If the political bureau approves the draft plan, the leadership of the party and the Lebanese Forces will work together in an emergency committee to supervise the reorganization of the party, promote reconciliation, resolve disputes, and coordinate political positions.

PLO Affairs, Egyptian Comment

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has postponed his visit to Jordan and is making preparations to transfer his headquarters to Khartoum, the Dubayy paper *AL-BAYAN* stated in a report from Amman. In another development, PLO official Muhammad Milhim told the London paper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the PLO will "never" recognize Israel, according to Radio Monte Carlo. On the other hand, a Cairo radio commentary maintained that the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist is a "pure formality" because the PLO is "implicitly" recognizing Israel by seeking to attend an international peace conference. The radio viewed the U.S. conditions for PLO participation in the peace process as "timewasting and unrealistic."

Polisario Military Aims

Polisario intends to thwart Morocco's use of "defense cordons" in the Western Sahara by launching a "war of attrition" against the Moroccans, a Polisario official stated in an interview with Algiers radio following the conclusion of Polisario's Sixth Congress.

DRA

Nine rebel units made up of 585 men from Jamiyat-e Eslami recently took advantage of the official amnesty and surrendered to security forces in Faryab Province, Kabul radio announced.

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'Arafat's Jordan Visit Postponed; PLO Office To Move

GF121848 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Dec 85 pp 1, 13

["Exclusive" report from Amman]

[Excerpt] *AL-BAYAN* has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was scheduled to arrive in Amman this week, has postponed his visit to Jordan. A date will be set later. This postponement comes despite the invitation which King Husayn extended to him two times, this week and last week.

Informed sources said that Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, has asked the director of the PLO office in Amman to inform 'Arafat that it is important for him to quickly come to Amman in order to crystalize a final stand on the conditions for a Middle East settlement.

AL-BAYAN has also learned that 'Arafat is making preparations to transfer his offices, elements, and headquarters to Khartoum. Tunisia has asked Colonel Abu Tayyib [Mahmud Ahmad al-Natur], commander of Force 17, to leave as soon as possible. Jordan deported Abu al-Tayyb 1 month ago.

Faruq Qaddumi Reiterates PLO Rejection of 242

JN121800 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has praised the current relationship between the PLO and Jordan and stressed the need for Egypt's return to the Arab fold. In an exclusive interview with KUNA, he said: There is no doubt that the relationship between Jordan and the PLO is a distinguished one in which each side is carefully seeking to improve and develop this relationship. He added: We believe, as everyone knows, that Egypt is a main element. Its presence in the Arab world on the economic, political, and military levels is an essential factor.

Brother Abu al-Lutf said that policies are flexible and times change. Therefore, when we realize that the challenges to the Arab nation have increased, we unite Arab ranks and reinforce Arab solidarity. Egypt is regarded as a main element in the Palestine question.

Brother Abu al-Lutf, who attended the General Assembly's discussions on the Palestine question, said: The PLO has two tasks: uniting Palestinian ranks and uniting Arab ranks.

Abu al-Lutf expressed the belief that no political settlement of the Middle East issue can be achieved through the participation of the United States alone. He added: We do not delude ourselves when we say that the United States is hostile toward the PLO and the Palestinian people. However, we must convince the Arab sides which are putting pressure on us in a certain direction that flexibility on Palestinian policy will not lead to a change in the U.S. stand in the absence of Arab pressure on all levels.

Abu al-Lutf reaffirmed the PLO's rejection of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He commented on press reports predicting a change in the PLO's stand on these two resolutions, saying that this came as a result of the complete freedom given to the Executive Committee in Baghdad with regard to finding a solution to the Palestine question. He added that Resolution 242 is not a suitable basis for any political settlement. This is the Palestinian stand that will not change unless the PNC adopts a different decision.

Muhammad Milhim: PLO Will Never Recognize Israel

JN121630 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] In an interview with *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* magazine, PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has stressed that the PLO will never recognize Israel regardless of the circumstances, even if it moves back its borders to Haifa and Yafo. Muhammad Milhim described UN Security Council Resolution No 242 as a rubber check because the United States and Israel do not recognize it.

PLO Spokesman Reacts to Dumas, Shultz Remarks

NC121849 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) — The PLO has expressed its surprise and astonishment at the statements made by Roland Dumas, French minister of external relations, during his recent visit to Israel. According to Roland Dumas, the PLO does not necessarily have to represent the Palestinian people at the peace talks.

The PLO also strongly denounced the recent statements made by George Shultz on eliminating the PLO from the peace negotiations. The U.S. secretary of state made these remarks during his visit to London.

Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, the official PLO spokesman, reported these reactions to a MENA correspondent in Tunisia. In his statement, the PLO spokesman commented on the recent French and U.S. remarks.

Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman asserted that what the French minister of external relations had said in Israel represents an obvious reversal of the traditional French attitude toward the Palestinian people and the PLO, an attitude adopted since the late President Charles de Gaulle. 'Abd al-Rahman said: Such a reversal harms the traditional friendly relations that tie the PLO to the French Government.

The official PLO spokesman expressed his organization's hope that the French Government will correct the ambiguity and confusion which have engulfed the French stand since the Israeli prime minister's recent visit to Paris. The spokesman reiterated the PLO's desire to preserve good relations between France and the PLO.

Commenting on George Shultz' recent statements in which he called for excluding the PLO from the peace negotiations,

Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman noted that such remarks refute U.S. claims regarding peace and the U.S. role in achieving it. These statements, he added, reflect the U.S. Administration's hostile policy toward the PLO. The PLO spokesman said that his organization will remain a stumbling block vis-a-vis U.S. solutions. There can be no peace or stability in the Middle East, he said, without recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and the PLO as their sole legitimate representative.

Dumas Apologizes

GF121945 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas has apologized for the mistake he made in his news conference, when he said that the PLO represents the combat force of the Palestinian people but not the whole nation. During a meeting with lawyer Hasim Abu Ghazalah, he said: That was merely a slip of the tongue. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

PFLP-GC Leader Escapes Assassination Attempt

GF121803 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 11 Dec 85 p 1

[Report from Damascus]

[Text] The PFLP-GC has confirmed reports that there was an attempt on the life of Secretary General Ahmad Jibril some 10 days ago in Damascus. Reports indicate that a parcel exploded while the postman was carrying it from the central post office in Damascus to the branch office where the office of Ahmad Jibril is located. This resulted in the death of the postman. The PFLP-GC regards the postman as one of its martyrs and took responsibility for his family's expenses. The PFLP-GC sources indicated that the investigations have so far not led to uncovering who sent the parcel.

Palestine Fund Chairman Denies Reports on PLO Funds

JN120920 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Jawid al-Ghusayn, chairman of the Palestinian National Fund, yesterday denied Western press reports that the PLO has funds amounting to $5 billion. At a news conference in Abu Dhabi, Al-Ghusayn said that, as chief executive of the national fund, he could deny all such unrealistic reports. He added that, taken together, all contributions by Arab states as well as money paid by Palestinians in exile do not meet the PLO needs. He noted that $100 million are sent anually to the Jordanian-Palestinian committee that works to help Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. The other part of the Palestinian funds, $250 million, is spent on Palestinian institutions such as the Red Crescent as well as the poor families and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Al-Ghusayn pointed out that the Jordanian-Palestinian committee, which was established following the 1977 Baghdad summit conference, received only 30 percent of the funds that were agreed on. This weakened Palestinian establishments inside the occupied Arab territories, such as hospitals, schools, and universities. Al-Ghusayn asked the Arab states to pay their contributions and fulfill their promises. He asserted that the PLO spent $5 million to rebuild the Palestinian hospitals in Lebanon that were destroyed by the Israeli invasion.

PLO Radio Details Attacks on Israeli, Lahd Forces

JN121831 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The Palestinian-Lebanese national joint forces launched a machinegun and rocket attack yesterday on a Zionist military patrol on the Kafra-Sarbin road in southern Lebanon. One military vehicle was destroyed, another was damaged, and a number of enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded. An enemy helicopter was seen transporting the dead and wounded to the rear lines.

The joint forces also attacked a military position belonging to the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon near (Annal), near Kafr Falus, in the central sector of southern Lebanon yesterday evening. The attack, in which machineguns, rockets, and hand grenades were used, resulted in heavy material damage to the position and the killing or wounding of a number of agent elements.

The joint forces launched an attack yesterday evening against another agent position near Juwayya, east of Hasbayya. The joint forces used rockets, flame throwers, and medium-and light-machineguns in the attack. Following the attack, in which six agent militiamen were either killed or wounded, the remaining elements fled the position in the direction of nearby woods and villages. Immediately afterward, the joint forces took control of the position and burned the Zionist flag and the flag of the agent army of southern Lebanon.

The Zionist enemy radio admitted these operations but did not mention by losses inflicted on its men and agents. It merely said that its forces and agent militias used the artillery and heavy machineguns to shell a number of Lebanese villages, wounding a number of citizens and causing heavy material damage.

Grisanti Says OPEC Will Not Start Price War

PA101350 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Dec 85

[Report by Carlos Fernandez]

[Text] In general terms, the OPEC meeting ended with a consensus of opinion regarding the need to protect and defend the organization's role in the international oil market. Hence, a clear and categorical warning also emerged from this meeting: OPEC will not let itself be displaced by its competitors, but it will not provoke a price war either, as reported in some international dispatches. This was stated by Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti during a telephone interview for this newscast.

[Begin Grisanti recording] This is a warning to non-OPEC oil-producing countries, which should no longer count on OPEC to defend the market's stability. If they insist on pressuring the market the way they have been doing for 3 years, they are going to cause a collapse in the market because OPEC is unable to draw back any further. [end recording]

During the telephone conversation, Minister Hernandez Grisanti said that various viewpoints on readjusting the organization's current strategy were discussed during the meeting that ended today in Geneva. For this reason, it was unanimously agreed that a committee will analyze the possible modifications. Venezuela, represented by Minister Hernandez Grisanti, will chair the committee.

[Begin Grisanti recording] OPEC aspires to have cooperation in order to ensure the market's stability. In addition, OPEC will analyze in this special committee and then at the conference, the ideas of Venezuela, and of any other country, in order to establish — if so decided by the conference — a new mechanism or a new strategy to guarantee the market's stability. [end recording]

Following Saturday's decision, Hernandez Grisanti, who is also OPEC's president, commented on the internal aspects of the Geneva meeting. Although he admitted that there are different positions, he also stressed that the organization is interested in maintaining its current position in the market, and of course, wants to maintain unity, and to modify the current strategy.

[Begin Grisanti recording] There are different opinions, and of course each country is free to express its ideas and positions. Now, we have taken a step forward. We are lucky because our efforts bore fruit and because the decisions were unanimously approved by the 13 member-countries. [end recording]

OPEC will begin discussing the new strategy in January, when the new committee is expected to meet. Another regular meeting is scheduled for June 1986, when, perhaps, the conclusions or proposals resulting from the internal work will be discussed.

KUWAIT

USSR's Govorov To Head Military Delegation on Visit

LD121242 Kuwait KUNA in English 1205 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Moscow, Dec 12 (KUNA) — A ranking Soviet military delegation, headed by Deputy Defense Minister General Vladimir Govorov will visit Kuwait within the coming few days, diplomatic sources here told KUNA thursday.

Kuwait's Defense Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim paid a visit to the Soviet Union nearly two years ago during which he had official talks with top Soviet military commanders, including late Defense Minister Dmitriy Ustinov.

The sources emphasized that the visit by the ranking Soviet military official to Kuwait, which is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), will play a major role in expanding and developing bilateral relations between Soviet and the Kuwaiti Defense Ministries.

In Kuwait, Shaykh Salim told the Kuwaiti *"AL-QABAS"* daily newspaper that the top Soviet official will pay a four-day visit to Kuwait.

During the Visit, Shaykh Salim said, the talks will cover military issues, particularly those relating to armament for Kuwait's Army.

OMAN

Sultan Receives Nigerian President's Note

GF121425 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received a written message from Nigerian President Major General Ibrahim Babangida. The message was delivered by Haj Yasuf (Nasma Soli), the special envoy of the Nigerian president, during his meeting with Fahd ibn Mahmud al bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs. The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the envoy. They discussed bilateral relations and the current African and international situations.

The guest referred to the prominent and positive Omani role in all international levels thanks to the wise policy of his majesty the sultan of the state. He also praised the comprehensive development achieved in the country under the wise leadership of his majesty. He affirmed the Babangida government's intention to further develop the bilateral relations for the good of the peoples of the two countries.

Official Views Development of Armed Forces

GF121210 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0841 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Muscat, 12 Dec (WAKH) — Fahar ibn Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, has stated that the level which Omani troops have attained is equal to the highest advanced levels of competence.

In an interview with the newspaper *AL-WATAN* published today, Fahar ibn Taymur added that the great care given by His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman to the Armed Forces has had the greatest effect on building these forces to the highest levels of combat capability and the level of modern armament with which these forces are equipped so that they will keep abreast of the requirements of intrinsic defense to proect the country and its achievements.

He said that there has been development in all the branches of the sultan's forces. These forces have been expanded, and given advanced and extensive training in order to build a military force that is highly trained and capable of carrying out its duties in the best possible manner.

He added that the Air Force has been supplied with modern fighters and defense aircraft, advanced radar systems, and advanced missiles in order to boost its ability to defend the country.

SAUDI ARABIA

Government May Join in Jordanian-Syrian Summit

GF121509 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 11 Dec 85 p 1

[Excerpt] *AL-SIYASAH* has learned from Lebanese officials that Saudi Arabia may participate in the Jordanian-Syrian summit expected to be held in Damascus shortly to achieve Arab consensus at the next Arab summit scheduled to be convened in Riyadh, and in order to produce a united peace plan for Lebanon and the region.

King Fahd Denies Withdrawal of Savings

GF130650 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 12 Dec (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz yesterday reviewed Riyadh city planning projects — those which have been implemented and those currently under construction. These plans include projects which are being implemented by the Ministry of Communications, the Riyadh city secretariat, and the projects center. Present were His Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of Riyadh region and chairman of the high committee to improve the city of Riyadh; Prince 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Hisham al-Nazir, minister of planning; Ibrahim al-'Anqari, minister of municipal and rural affairs; Husayn Mansuri, minister of communications; Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman Al al-Shaykh, chief of the royal protocol; 'Abdallah al-Nu'aym, secretary general of Riyadh; and a number of officials.

After viewing the project plans for Riyadh city, his majesty the king expressed happiness and pleasure over his viewings.

King Fahd said a campaign against Saudi Arabia is being launched over [foreign] radios, televisions, and press. This cam-

paign is rancorous. It is only launched because this desert country has reached such levels of development in the fields of construction, agriculture, and industry. Who could believe that this country would become almost self-sufficient in agriculture, like cereals, for example?

Of course there are some who try to distort the Islamic creed. But we should not be destered by anyone. We should pay attention to ourselves. Thank God, Saudi Arabia has no blemishes; it is tied neither by treaties nor foreign links, and no one can claim to have done favors for us, except the Almighty. The Kingdom gives to those it believes are in need. It has given billions. Have we ever boasted about this or said we did this or that? No, because we give this to fraternal countries and we believe we should help these countries. Of course the situation now is different. In the past we produced from 9 to 11 million [barrels of oil] per day. Now, the Kingdom's official production is around 4.5 million barrels. As we know, our production a few months ago was around 2 million barrels. We should understand this and become used to it as citizens. Also, those who the Kingdom has responsibilities toward should become used to this. We hope that sales will improve, as we have heard they will. What is strange is the talk which we hear about all the time, that the Kingdom has withdrawn from its savings. When has the Kingdom withdrawn its savings? Does the Kingdom shy away from withdrawing from its savings if it needs to? Is it a disgrace when it falls in debt? The U.S. budget, for example, is indebted to the United Kingdom. All the world countries have obligations, unemployment, and problems. They all withdraw from their savings and they all levy taxes. We have done nothing. But as I have said, regrettably some newspapers and magazines [sentence incomplete as received]. I do not accuse those responsible for these papers and magazines because probably some have rancor against Saudi Arabia and try to deceive others. [sentence as received] The fact which remains solid is that right is unconquerable. I pray to God for more success.

UAE

Dubayy Grants Landing Rights to USSR's Aeroflot

GF121521 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] The civil aviation authorities in Dubayy have granted the landing, take-off, and commercial exploitation rights to Aeroflot at the Dubayy International Airport. The commercial exploitation right comprises the booking of single and return tickets, air cargo, and mail services. The Dubayy National Agency for Travel and Tourism signed an agreement with Aeroflot approximately 1 and 1/2 years ago offering it ground services.

Federal Supreme Council To Meet 15 Dec

GF121846 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Dec (WAKH) — The UAE Federal Supreme Council is due to meet on Sudnay under the chairmanship of the president Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The UAE daily *AL-ITTIHAD* reported today that the meeting will discuss national work and a range of domestic and foreign issues of interest to the country and its citizens. It will also examine future government plans.

The meeting is also expected to ratify a number of federal laws and decrees, particularly that dealing with the 1985 federal budget.

The Supreme Council was originally scheduled to meet last Monday, but was postponed to permit further consultations between its members, that have taken place over the past few days.

Iran Urged To Accept Gulf Proposals on War

GF121154 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 12 Dec 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Gulf Countries and Iran"]

[Text] President Shaykh Zayid has joined King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in trying to impress upon the Iranians that any further prolongation of the Gulf war will not only add to the terrible destruction already wreaked but will also be self-defeating. This message was conveyed to the Iranians through their foreign minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, druing his visits this week to Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, and it seems to reflect some of the exasperation felt throughout the Gulf at the continued indifference of Tehran to peace overtures generally and the initiatives made by the AGCC particularly. Even while Mr Velayati was in Riyadh, the Iranian news agency was quoting him as saying that the war would be ended only when the Iraqis were defeated; and the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, confirmed in a statement after talks with Mr Velayati that he had detected no change in the Iranian position. The Iranian Prime Minister, Mr Hoseyn Musavi, has gone so far as to imply that it is only Tehran's hard line that is responsible for what he called recent positive signals from neighbouring states that they wished to improve relations with Iran. If Mr Musavi was referring to the Gulf countries, and last month's AGCC summit where a calculatedly mild resolution was adopted on the Gulf war, then he is mistaken when he sees in this a vindication of the Tehran regime's intransigence.

The Gulf states have always abjured any histrionics on this issue and while making no secret of their solidarity with the brotherly Arab country of Iraq, have sought to maintain a dialogue with Iran and exert every effort to bring tranquility to the area. Throughout the nightmarish course of the war, they have said that they are not interested in apportioning blame but only in halting the fighting and thus removing any pretext for any outside power to seize the opportunity of destabilising the region. They have even gone to the extent of suggesting that if the war is ended, they would be ready to extend help in post-war reconstruction in both Iran and Iraq. There has been no change in this consistent attitude, and Shaykh Zayid told Mr Velayati again in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday how unhappy the UAE was over the continuation of the war "which benefited none but the enemies of Isalm." It is to be hoped that Tehran will accept the proposals offered by the Gulf countries in the spirit in which they are meant for the sake of the peace and progress of a region in which it too has a big stake, a role to play and a contribution to make.

PDRY

Prime Minister Returns From Sanaa Visit

GF121932 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Aden by land from Ta'izz this evening.

He led our country's delegation to the third session of the joint ministerial committee, which concluded in Sanaa this afternoon.

UAE Minister Meets With Foreign Minister

GF121551 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, yesterday held a dinner banquet at the Dayradan building in the honor of Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation.

The banquet was attended by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, and a number of YSP Central Committee members, ministers, and officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Cooperation minutes were signed at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The minutes provide for developing cooperation between our country and the UAE. They were signed on the PDRY'S behalf by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs. Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, signed for the UAE.

The minutes included cooperation in the fields of education, culture, tourism, and housing. They also affirmed the need to exchange visits and contacts in order to enhance the fraternal relations between the two countries.

The signing ceremony was signed by 'Awad Ahmad Haydarah, our ambassador to the UAE, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Talks between the PDRY delegation and the UAE delegation reviewed the current developments on the Arab and international arenas. Points of view of both sides were identical on many issues discussed.

Makes Statement, Departs

GF121554 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, left Aden this afternoon after a 3-day visit to our country. During his visit he delivered a message from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

During his visit Rashid 'Abdallah also held discussions with brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister, on friendly cooperation relations between the two fraternal countries and Arab and international issues of mutual concern.

Prior to his departure from Aden International Airport, he made a statement to ANA. He said: The visit was a successful and fraternal one, during which we were able to discuss our mutual issues, bilateral and Arab ones. He stated that joint cooperation between the two countries was discussed. He explained that such visits are of great interest not only in the field of bilateral cooperation, but in coordinating both stands in regard to Arab and international issues.

He was seen off by brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign minister; Ahmad 'Awad Haydrah, our ambassador to the UAE; and a number of officials at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Planning.

YAR

Ministerial Meeting With PDRY Concludes

GF121856 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 12 Dec 85

["Text" of statement issued following the conclusion of the third joint ministerial session on 12 December]

[Text] Within the framework of the national efforts made by the leadership of both parts of the homeland in order to regain the Yemeni unity, and the continuation of the fraternal meetings, the joint ministerial committee held its third session in the capital Sanaa on 10 to 12 December chaired by brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the standing committee, and brother engineer Haydar Abu aakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. Also participating were brother members of the ministerial committee of both parts of the homeland.

The committee dealt with the issues in the agenda and reviewed the report submitted by the secretariat of the Supreme Yemeni Council on the level of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the second session of the ministerial committee which convened in Aden, and also on what has been planned and achieved so far by the unity committees, technical committees, the results of fraternal meetings, and the messages exchanged by the officials of the two parts of different ministries, government and popular institutions, and the officials of a number of provinces of both parts of the homeland, and within the framework of the mass activities and others. In this regard, the committee expressed its extreme satisfaction with those steps attained to achieve unity, which have gained the appreciation and the satisfaction of the Yemeni masses, and which have represented new firm steps toward the unity of the Yemeni homeland, thanks to the sincere efforts made by officials of bot.: parts and

the wise directions of the leadership of both parts, led by brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council.

In order to enhance the unity steps, the joint ministerial committee discussed a number of issues and adopted a number of resolutions and decisions designed to develop the horizons of unity cooperation and integration — in such a way that guarantees to improve the performance of the joint Yemeni companies and projects, in addition to cooperation in the new development spheres. Among these projects are the sectors of transportation and the economic, financial, agricultural, and trade fields, together with the expansion of the joint cultural and educational activities which characterize our unity of culture and heritage.

The committee also endorsed the laws and rules pertaining to the companies and the joint projects.

While concluding its third session, the joint ministerial committee underlines its firm and deep-rooted faith in going ahead with unity steps, and to develop the scopes of coordination and cooperation in the various fields. It also expresses the unity spirit of our Yemeni people. The committee also expresses its full satisfaction with the results of this session. It appreciates the efforts of the secretariat of the Supreme Yemeni Council, the unity committees, and the technical committees. It is also asserts the importance of exerting continuous efforts to attain further successes.

It was agreed that the committee will hold its next session in Aden.

Mubarak Discusses Camp David, Other Topics
PM121201 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Dec 85 pp 6, 12

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by 'Irfan Nizam Al-Din and Mahmud Sadiq in Cairo on 8 December]

[Text] Question: Mr President, you have recently launched the "great awakening" slogan to good effect in Egypt. In doing so, were you thinking of certain bases and concepts, and how optimistic are you about achieving good results and finding solutions to the current problems?

Answer: I spoke about the great awakening in my speech without going into details. I mentioned some fundamental guidelines for boosting development and production. For example, on investment, I said that there are certain obstacles which must be removed to encourage the private sector which is one of the main pillars of development in Egypt. All Egyptian individuals, as well as the private sector and the joint sector, should be accorded facilities to enable them to invest their funds and introduce projects that are useful to the Egyptian people and to Egypt and the Arab world. I also spoke about rationalization in many fields and about the contribution, by those who can afford it, to the solution of our problems because we should not place too great a burden on those who cannot afford it. This is the basis of our domestic policy.

Question: But, Mr President, although there are some calls for separation of Egypt from its Arab surroundings, the fact remains that foreign and Arab factors are important. Have you taken this into consideration and do you not think that there should be a great Arab awakening parallel to the internal awakening?

Answer: What do you mean?

Question: Any internal development course ought to be coupled with better Arab relations and a great awakening at the Arab level.

Answer: Well, by God, a great Arab awakening should stem from the Arab kings and presidents. As far as we are concerned, Egypt enjoys good relations with all or most Arab states. We do not wish to talk about the Syrian brothers. What do the Arabs want me to do? Should I disavow Egypt's commitments and undertakings? Impossible. It has been categorically proven that Egyptian commitments are genuine commitments. Should I, as they say, abrogate Camp David? How could I do that in the interest of the Palestinian cause? We are not a party to a separate agreement and we have never abdondoned the Palestinian cause. We are the state which has been defending the Palestinian cause from the very beginning. We have never abandoned it and we will never change our course on the Palestinian question.

Question: The matter calls for some explanation. Everyone expects from Egypt, the biggest Arab state, and from you personally, a daring and bold initiative in order to get out of the present dilemma.

Answer: Like what for example?

Question: For example, in Muscat you said that the Palestinian part of Camp David has been suspended. Could you elaborate more on this point to confirm that Egypt does not resort to unilateral solutions and that its approach to the Palestinian question is in harmony with the general Arab line?

Answer: Does not all this confirm that Egypt does not resort to unilateral solutions? When the question of autonomy was discussed was it not clear to all the Arabs that Egypt does not resort to unilateral solutions? In fact when they (he means the Israelis) sought a declaration of principles after the autonomy talks, I told them that I had no power to make a declaration of principles forfeiting any part of the Palestinian land simply because I cannot dispose of someone's property, nor give it to someone else. It was as simple as that. I also told them that if they wanted a declaration of principles then they should issue one and then I would state my reservations on it. I do not sign away a single inch of Arab territory. It is up to the owners to do that. Furthermore, is it not clear to everyone that Egypt does not sell out any cause? It never has. Never in its ancient or modern history has Egypt sold out a cause. What more do the Arabs want from Egypt?

Question: That is clear from your statements and the steps you have taken, but how can an executive step be taken?

Answer: Do you want me to do what some people in the Arab states are calling for, that is "take a bold step and abrogate Camp David?" Some are saying that if Israel occupies the Sinai, we and all the Arabs will support you. My answer is I am sorry but Egypt has commitments and agreements which have been ratified. We are committed to them. We honor our responsibilities and our agreements, otherwise Egypt would lose its credibility throughout the world. Furthermore, why do you want me to give up the Sinai? Abrogation would mean a declaration of war. The first part of the agreement provides for the restoration of territory in return for the peace process and the second part provides for the settlement of the Palestinian question. I think you will find that we advocate the Palestinian cause more than anyone else and we take the toughest stands in our discussions with the various parties. Our relations with Israel are not dangerous. On the contrary, at least we contact Israel openly and point out all its mistakes but there are those who contact Israel secretly and you hear a lot about that. Should Egypt be blamed now? Why Egypt?

Question: I am talking about the second part which you said has been frozen.

Answer: We reached a deadlock on the second part so we began using a different approach reflected in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, on the basis of which we expected the second part to be resolved. The Israeli Government is showing willingness to hold unconditional negotiations. What more do the Arabs want? What do they want us to do, jump into the lake? What is required of Egypt? Should I drown? My answer, of course, is: Sorry. Am I supposed to drown Egypt simply because a particular state wants to impose its will on it? I am Egyptian first and foremost. I am the elected president of these people and I must therefore protect their rights. That does not mean antagonizing others but if anyone sought to dictate anything harmful to the Egyptian

people, my answer would be: Sorry, but no. Nothing is dearer than one's own soul.

Question: I believe that most of the statements issued on the attitudes of the Arab states were clear. When you assumed power you declared that you would not dispose of the Palestinian cause because that is the right of the people whose cause it is.

Answer: By God, neither I, nor anyone who comes after me has the right to dispose of the Palestinian cause. Let us be more clear and frank. History will record everything. History becomes known after a lapse of time. We Arabs will be the reason for the loss of the Palestinian cause through talk. We are very good with words and flowery language.

Question: That leads us to another question. We would like a picture of the real situation in the region now, the chances of peace, and the chances of an international conference in the light of your recent moves. Is there any hope for a settlement in the near future, and how?

Answer: We are proceeding with the peace process and we are exerting maximum efforts. We have been holding consultations with our brother King Husayn since the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. We are trying to persuade the United States to accept the idea of dialogue with a joint delegation. We are also trying to persuade Israel. I believe you are aware of the efforts that we and King Husayn made in March. King Husayn has since visited Washington for the same cause, with the aim of pushing forward the peace wagon. The Americans and Israelis refused. We then worked for an international conference and managed to achieve a certain position, and we would have achieved good solutions and good progress but then there were hindrances. For example, the Larnaca incident occurred when we were in the United States. After our return to Cairo the PLO headquarters in Tunisia was raided, and that was followed by the *Achille Lauro* hijacking. I do not know in whose interest all this is. What do those who carry out such operations want? Whenever we move and whenever there is progress in the peace process, a new problem appears or is created to complicate everything. I really do not know in whose interest all this is. I believe that the Arab world knows the answer well and needs no explanations from me.

Question: Mr President, What did Murphy bring you and may we know your assessment of the Geneva conference results? How do you see the situation in the wake of the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting and is it true that they have agreed on an initial formula for a settlement?

Answer: I do not believe that they arrived at an initial formula. They said that they would discuss the issue in future meetings at ministerial level, but never mind all that. It is all up to us Arabs. If the current disintegration continues, there will be no solution. No one has a right to use the Palestinians as pawns. If that continues there will no longer be a cause and we Arabs, not Egypt, will be historically responsible for that. In Egypt we never hesitate to provide any reasonable and logical help, but I will say "no" to anyone who wants to drown Egypt for personal gains.

Question: What about Murphy, what did bring you?

Answer: Nothing. He told me that on the question of international conference they were still waiting for the PLO's views on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on the basis of which the international conference would be held. When brother Yasir 'Arafat was in Cairo, we talked to them about finding a way of resolving this matter. We also discussed with them the issue of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the problems it faced, and we also discussed the question of an international conference. I think that you may recall that, when we were in the United States, Secretary of State George Shultz made a speech at the Security Council about the question of an international conference. We held talks with President Reagan and other officials and we talked tough with them on this matter. The Americans were convinced of our views, but then the Larnaca incident occurred and was followed by the Israeli raid on the Palestinian command in Tunisia which confused the entire situation again. Whenever we take one step forward they take us two steps back. I say: Let anyone who has a solution to the problem, but who fears that Egypt might provide the solution, take precedence over us and proceed to solve the problem. King Husayn is making considerable efforts and we will do what we can to help him, but others must also help him to enable him to move forward. Yet while King Husayn is proceeding in one direction, blows are dealt here and there, and others are making requests.

Question: The reactions to the Cairo Declaration issued during 'Arafat's visit were lukewarm. How do you explain that?

Answer: Where?

Question: In Israel and the United States for example.

Answer: No, the United States has said that it was a good declaration but what is important is that they [the Palestinians] should implement the part on terrorism. The United States wanted two things: Exclusion of terrorism from PLO activities and recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338. 'Arafat declared that he would never support terrorism and he condemned it and opposed it. That is one of the main points requested by the United States. As regards the other point, which is recognition of Resolution 242, the Palestinian sides should discuss it among themselves. I believe that this has actually taken place in Baghdad. They have also met with King Husayn. I hope they agree on any formula.

Question: The Palestinians were supposed to make a decision during their recent meeting in Baghdad but they said that they were waiting for some explanations which they had sought from you and from King Husayn. What is your comment on that?

Answer: By God, we talk about and act on everything King Husayn tells us and asks of us because he is making very great efforts with them.

Question: During 'Arafat's visit, did you arrive at a formula for solving pending problems related to the Palestinians in Egypt — their residence, education, and ownership?

Answer: In regard to ownership we have a law. Agricultural land cannot be owned. Many Arab states do not permit ownership

of their land [by others], so why blame only Egypt? Do you want us to be guests on our own land which has been bought by people who have the money?

I say it frankly and on nationalist grounds that it is inconceivable that our sons should be without land. An Arab leader once told me: "Brother Husni, do not sell your land because the day would come when you would find yourself a guest on your own land." None of the other Arab states sell its land, so why should we? There is investment in Egypt and anyone willing to purchase land on that basis is welcome. Furthermore, we should not forget that the provision in the law which allowed the principle of selling land to the Palestinians was temporary. At that time others requested equality with the Palestinians in the ownership of land, so we said none shall have it. Land is honor. If I sell my land, I sell my honor; that is it in a nutshell.

Question: Mr President, you have spoken of coordination with King Husayn. Could you tell us on what basis the future move will be made? Is there a plan for a new move?

Answer: We are always in contact and there is continuous coordination. When new developments occur we always hold consultations and we move in unison. We support King Husayn's moves and provide assistance in whatever he asks.

Question: Do you see the Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement as a prelude to an Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement or to an Egyptian-Jordanian estrangement?

Answer: By God, brother, I just want to tell you one thing. I am not opposed to any rapprochement. We encourage Jordan's rapprochement with Syria, or any other state. I am definitely not against any rapprochement. There are those who claim that it is a rapprochement at the expense of some other side. I say that it might be the opposite. I do not believe that King Husayn — he and I are frank with each other — would have a rapprochement with Syria, for example, against Egypt. That is not possible and I cannot conceive of that happening. I also do not believe that King Husayn entertains such ideas. He is an Arab king and we are an Arab state. A rapprochement between two sides is in the interest of solving outstanding problems.

Question: It has been said that King Husayn is working for an Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement.

Answer: That would be welcome but we are not interested in any conditional rapprochement, and we do not bow to anyone.

Question: What about relations with Iraq, Mr President, and are they going well? Why have full relations not been restored?

Answer; Ask our Iraqi brothers. As far as we are concerned, these relations are very good and we always support Iraq in international circles and in all other fields. We never withhold anything.

Question: Are there any new developments regarding the Iraq-Iran war. There are reports of escalation and other reports about an imposed solution. What is the situation as far as you know?

Answer: Who will impose a solution?

Question: It has been said that this matter was discussed during the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting. A few days ago George Shultz said that it was discussed during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit and that they will try to put pressure on Iran in this connection.

Answer: I hope to God and wish that is so. Who but mad people would want war to rage on? We do not want war, and we wish that war would end, and the two countries would gear their resources toward construction instead of killing and terrible attrition. Construction would raise the people's standard of living and end the anxiety in the other Gulf states.

Question: Are there contacts in this connection between Egypt and Iran aimed at putting an end to the Gulf war, and what are the results of these contacts?

Answer: There could be some minor contacts. We have nothing against Iran and we wish the war would end.

Question: From Iraq we move to Algeria and Tunisia. What are the results of the multilateral meetings and contacts held in the past few months?

Answer: The relations between us and President Bendjedid are very good. We exchange views on various issues, we cooperate in various fields, and exchange delegations.

Question: What is your answer to the claim that the aim is to form a new bloc?

Answer: That is wrong. When we deal with Algeria, we do not do so against Morocco. If I dealt with Syria would I be acting against Jordan? That is a fallacy. Jordan is improving its relations with Syria. Is that directed against anyone? People who say such things have nothing else to do and they divide the world into blocs any way they like. Brother, even if I say something they would say: Ah, there is a new bloc. We are an Arab state and it is in our interest to have relations wiOh all Arab states. Egypt is full of appreciation and respect particularly for Saudi Arabia and King Fahd and Prince 'Abdallah with whom I had a fraternal, cordial, and frank meeting in Muscat.

Question: Relations with Sudan constitute the keystone of Egyptian policy. How do you evaluate these relations and their future? What was the outcome of your meetings with General Siwar al-Dhahab and other Sudanese officials? Will you revive the integration or will you find another formula during your forthcoming meeting at the end of this month?

Answer: We have no problems with Sudan... With regard to integration, at the beginning they [the Sudanese] attacked it but now they are interested in it. They said that integration was wasteful. I told them that by God, we have no waste. We are now actually pursuing integration in the economic aspect, both at their end and ours.

We have no objection to anything they want. We have no objection if they want a new method of dealing. The relations between us and Sudan are eternal; it is above individuals. Ties

exist between the two peoples. As for those who try to create problems, their problems soon vanish; in the end the people's will is stronger than any other will and than any individual's will. Our relations with Sudan are normal. We always meet and there are no differences over this. Gen Siwar al-Dhahab was visiting us and several visits were exchanged involving the prime minister and the ministers. We are always with the government and do not interfere in the internal affairs of any country.

Question: In a recent statement to Sudanese paper *AL-YAWM* you said that there are those who are trying to overblow Numayri's case. Did you overcome this problem?

Answer: Why do they preoccupy themselves with the problem of Numayri? This will not feed the people. I believe that the principal problem for any people is to raise the people's standard of living. The problem of Numayri will provide neither food nor drink. Why should we preoccupy the people with the story of Numayri? The decision to keep Numayri in Cairo is humanitarian and irrevocable because this is an ancient Egyptian tradition. A refugee cannot be extradited and we cannot extradite him. The Constitution itself says a refugee cannot be extradited.

Question: There is a joint defense pact between Egypt and Sudan. Does it still exist? Is Egypt prepared to help Sudan in the event that the mutiny expands or in the event of an external danger?

Answer: We have nothing to do with the mutiny in the south and we will not intervene in it.

Question: What about the support it gets from abroad?

Answer: Support from abroad is also an internal matter with which we have nothing to do. In the event of a dispute between one Sudanese and another, how shall we intervene? Shall we strike at one of them who is a Sudanese? This is inconceivable. But if an external force attacks Sudan and we are asked to intervene, then we will not delay intervening. We will not get involved in an internal dispute. This will never happen.

Question: There have been contradictory reports about the extradition of the hijacker of the Egyptian plane. What were the results of contacts with Malta in this regard and what are the real implications of this matter and of the hijacking and storming the plane?

Answer: You know the implications very well. Every day we hear a different story. One time they say that the hijacker is a Tunisian, his mother is a Tunisian, his father a Libyan, and has seven children, but has never been to Tunisia. Yesterday we heard that the boy declared his identity — that he is a Palestinian. This is strange. How did he change from Tunisian to Palestinian? Can one in the Arab world change his identity in a single moment?

Question: Maybe he had a forged passport.

Answer: Forged? We are only interested in the operation itself. The information we hear changes and becomes different daily.

Question: Has the picture become clear with regard to the results of the investigation so far?

Answer: A group of people hijacked the plane; they had no demands. We wanted to establish a dialogue with them so as to save the hostages' lives, a goal in the case of any hijacked plane. They said they wanted to talk to the Libyan ambassador. When he came to the control tower, they asked him to go over to the plane. I do not know who instructed him not to go to the plane. Indeed he received orders to go to Tripoli. Those people had no demands. They wanted the Maltese Government to provide them with fuel but it refused. Had the plane been refueled and the pilot forced to go to place like Tripoli and then, for some reason, Tripoli blew up the plane, subsequently Egypt would be blamed for not defending the plane passengers. The question would be asked: Why was the plane allowed to take off? Had the plane gone to Tripoli or elsewhere, would we have known what would happen to it? In any case our decision would have been criticized, whether we saved the passengers or let the plane go to another country.

We were going to face criticism whatever happened. We were facing hijackers who had no demands and who in fact had begun to implement their threat to execute the passengers. When the commandos stormed the plane, criticism was directed against them. It was said that the Egyptians used bombs, but the truth is that none of the storming forces was carrying bombs. The carrying of bombs in storming planes is absolutely banned, not even during training. They carry only revolvers. Even machineguns are not used because they could cause casualties among the passengers. The shock troops use only revolvers because they are skilled in using this weapon. Nevertheless, biased rumors alleged that the Egyptians used machineguns.

All the passengers ducked under the seats, so how could we hit them?

Another rumor said that a bomb was used, and yet another that the plane door was blow in, thus causing the death of passengers. How could the door explode? Is the door a bomb? The opening of the door does not affect anybody, not even those sitting next to it. These are mere fabrications but the world believes them. Some say that there was smoke because of the door's explosion. There is the commando whose feet were blown off as a result of a bomb thrown by the hijackers. [as published]

Question: What is your comment on the rumors that a U.S. force participated in the storming operation?

Answer: The Americans did not take part in the storming operation. If we say that the Americans did not take part, some people become angry. Some people went to Malta in order to ascertain that no Americans were in the storming operation. They did not find any. Only the [presumably U.S.] attache and two or three others went...They had nothing to do with anything. The United States offered us assistance but we declined with thanks. So did Britain and France and other countries. We declined with thanks.

Question: The incident caused serious events, including the mutual military concentrations on the borders. Recently you said

that you will not fight Libya. What is the situation now and were there any mediations to defuse the situation?

Answer: There are no Egyptian concentrations on the borders with Libya but there is a state of alert — for the Air Force and the Air Defense Forces. I have no wish to punish anyone... I will not touch the Libyan people and I have no designs on Libya or its oil, as some people claim. My only demand is good-neighborliness with Libya and nothing else at all. I have nothing against the Libyan people.

Question: Is there any mediation between you and Libya?

Answer: I did not reject any mediation proposed to me, but we did not reach any agreement, because of the failure to honor pledges.

Question: It was said that interntionally the Soviet Union and other countries have mediated to end the recent crisis.

Answer: No, they did not mediate.

Question: Mr President, what is the condition of relations between Egypt and the United States following the diversion of the Egyptian civilian plane and its being forced to land in Italy?

Answer: The plane incident has left a deep wound; it takes time for a wound to heal. But now things are better than before. We have relations with the United States and cooperate with it in various fields. There is nothing we can say about this...

Question: With regard to the Soviet Union, Mr President, it was observed that contacts have been renewed and there has been an exchange of messages. Is there anything new in the relations between the two countries? Will a military delegation visit Moscow as was reported in some Arab and foreign media?

Answer: I have sent messages to Reagan and Gorbachev asking for assistance in solving the Middle East problem. For this reason I met with the Soviet ambassador. With regard to cooperation, of course it exists between us and the Soviet Union. Cooperation with the Soviet Union has not stopped and will never stop. There is now a trade delegation [not further identified], and trade relations between us are continuing. With regard to what the Arab and foreign papers say about the existence of military delegations, let them say what they like. For our part we try to maintain good relations with the Soviet Union as a superpower which we cannot ignore. We previously had relations with it. We do not turn our back on anybody. We must maintain good relations between us.

Question: Did you receive responses to the messages you sent to Reagan and Gorbachev?

Answer: No, not yet.

Question: Mr President, allow me to move to some domestic issues and refer to the "great awakening" call. It is said that you are about to proclaim important economic decisions. Can we know the general outline of these decisions and how are they going to be carried out?

Answer: There is nothing at all [in the decisions] that would affect the low-income people. The expected decisions are for the purpose of rationalizing, no more and no less. They are for rationalizing our resources and utilizing them in the best possible manner... This is what we are trying to do in order to obtain the greatest benefit possible for the citizens.

The second aim is not to burden people who have low incomes or to burden destitute people. This is a fundamental principle in the economic policy. We are calling upon those who can afford it to contribute to solving the problem. But I cannot impose more burdens on those who cannot afford it. This is logical.

Question: How far will the expected changes affect the subsidization of commodities, given that the prime minister stressed that subsidy will be given only to those who deserve it?

Answer: With regard to basic commodities, we are looking for ways in order to identify those who are deserving. This is the most difficult thing. The idea is easy but defining who is deserving and who is not is very difficult. Certain basic commodities now reach people who are undeserving. This is clear. What we are doing now is just trying to establish social categories. In other words, take electricity for example: For a house which consumes 100 or 150 kilowatts per month, the price per kilowatt does not go up to more than 18 piasters. A higher electric power consumption is a sign of ability to purchase expensive equipment and, therefore, an electricity consumer in this case pays more. If I buy an electric power station for $750 million and those who are affluent pay the same as those who are not, where will I get the money from to pay for the station? All that we are doing for the next stage is merely to rationalize certain commodities that will not at all affect those who cannot afford to pay more.

Question: Negotiations were held last week with the IMF regarding Egypt's debts. What are the most important results of these talks and how far has Egypt succeeded in repaying its debts?

Answer: The results have not yet emerged. With regard to the repayment of Egypt's debts we are asking that those who can afford to do so contribute to the repayment. Of course, not all the money required to repay the debts can be donated, but this would give the Egyptian the sense of belonging to his country; the need to rebuild Egypt is desirable. Contributions to repay the debts will be beneficial to all the Egyptians; in other words it is a case of "from him, to him." He who can afford it pays what he can, and the benefit will be general.

Question: There are still questions being asked regarding the reality of the economic policy and the role of the private sector in the development process. It is said that the proclaimed policy of encouraging the private sector is still encountering difficulties at the buraucratic level. How do you visualize removing those obstacles?

Answer: Bureaucracy exists everywhere in the world. Why do you insist that it exists only in Egypt? Show me one country in the world where there is no bureaucracy. In Egypt we give great facilities to the private sector; we give it facilities so as to give momentum to the development plan and so that the Egyptian

citizen or other citizens may be able to set up projects that would serve to develop both the national interest and their capital.

Question: This is not an accusation but a desire to know your views regarding doing away with its shortcomings.

Answer: I cannot completely do away with the shortcomings but I would try to ease the obstacles. Do not believe that you can do things all at once. If this were possible, things would have been easy. But I am trying, for example, instead of having to obtain 13 approvals on a project in a particular town, to reduce it to 1 or 2 approvals obtainable from definite quarters. In the new towns we would reduce the approvals from 13, say to 5. We have set up a follow-up office in the premier's office to discuss all problems because there are people with fossilized minds. It is not a matter of pushing buttons to end the problem. We are dealing with human beings.

Question: It is obvious that you have chosen the present Egyptian Government in order to make firm decisions to solve Egypt's problems. How far has this government achieved its objectives and what is your visualization of its future moves and priorities?

Answer: The priorities have not changed. It is customary that when there is a government change from time to time, a change of blood comes about and, as a result, we move faster and take new initiatives. The present prime minister was former minister of finance and has shown good initiative and great dynamism. He is an economist, which is a good and useful thing.

Question: Is there anything new with regard to electing a vice president?

Answer: Why are you so concerned? The Constitution does not stipulate appointing a vice president. I could appoint one or more but I am under no obligation to do so. If I should make a decision appointing a vice president, they will say that this means that I am saying that he is to become president of the Republic, and if I did not, they would ask: Why not? We will then open a door that we cannot shut. I do not discuss this subject at all, but some people who have time to spare talk about the subject. Let them talk so that the press may find something to write about.

Question: As a result of your constant meetings with the opposition leaders, some kind of total understanding and coordination emerged between the government and the opposition. How far has the democratic experiment succeeded in Egypt?

Answer: We, both government and opposition, are not hostile to one another. As long as the opposition is in the people's interest I respect it, but if I find it that it is against the people's interest, I will tell it to stop. The people can determine whether the opposition is speaking the truth or lying. Have you ever seen me seizing an opposition paper? This did not and will not happen...if what they write is wrong the people have enough sense to know. They do in fact often publish wrong reports, but the citizen who reads them can tell the wrong from the right. Indeed some of the Arab papers and magazines publish ridiculous stories.

Question: Is it we in *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT?*

Answer: No, there are no wrong reports in *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*; I have observed the objectivity of what your write. I mean other Arab papers.

Question: How do you evaluate the democratic experiment in Egypt?

Answer: The experiment is progressing and this is in the people's interest; it is a safety valve. The head of state functions through Constitutions so that every individual's rights are guaranteed. When some people mentioned to me that an organization called "Egypt's Revolution" exists, I was astonished and asked where is it and why do they do this since they can come out in the open and proclaim their views in Cairo? Let everyone in the country declare his views. The experiment is excellent and we are in a much better situation than in the past. We are not afraid of democracy because the law rules.

Question: Are there any changes expected in the political sphere, particularly with regard to the election law and the extraordinary laws?

Answer: We are not contemplating anything in this regard now. This is not issue that concerns feeding the people. Not even 10 of those who are now showing their dismay over the election laws would have been able to enter parliament had not the laws been amended.

Question: What is your opinion regarding the role of expatriate Egyptians and will new measures be taken to strengthen their ties with the mother homeland?

Answer: I appealed to them in my recent speech that this is their country and they should contribute to developing it. Those who have money and can invest it, let them do so. If such persons want to build or to farm, then we will give them many facilities. The government will issue decisions in this regard.

Question: At the outset of your 5th year as president, what lessons has Husni Mubarak learned, what steps does he intend to take, and what goes on in his head with regard to the future?

Answer: By God, I aim at the welfare of Egypt. I am doing all I can for the country's sake. All my time is generally devoted to the Egyptian people. I have an accumulation of problems dating back to 60 or 70 years, but I do not despair because if I despair I will not be able to do anything. In Egypt, for example, the sewage system in Cairo is 60 years old and in Alexandria it is 70 years old; these systems are delapidated and no changes have been carried out in them. The same thing can be said about Cairo's telephone system. It used to be difficult to communicate even within the same quarter of the city and more so to communicate with abroad. The railroads are in a deplorable condition. There were no roads or electric lines that were not at a critical stage, and the industry was very backward and deteriorating. Agriculture fell back several years and our resources are limited. This has prompted me to convene an economic conference from which we emerged with plans for the ideal utilization of resources and a 5-year plan was laid down. Since that time I believe we have progresed a lot, but we have a long way to go.

For example Cairo's sewage system will cost about 4 billion [currency not specified] and Alexandria's system about 3 billion. This will be completed in 1989. Subway trains will ease the traffic flow and there are overpasses that have been built in Cairo, across the Nile, and in the provinces. Expenditure on the railroads in the 5-year plan will be equal to what was spent on them in the past 50 years.

In 1981 electric power output was 18 billion megawatts. In December this year it will reach 40 billion megawatts; that is more than double. Investment in the industry under the 5-year plan is about 6 billion. We had texile factories whose equipment dated back to 1938. These have been replaced and so the quality and production output has improved.

We have invested in the production of ready-made clothes which have become popular. In Egypt we have factories that produce shirts, trousers, suits, and everything. We have many vistas open. If you go to a city like 10 Ramadan City, which is within the 5-year plan, you will see the amount of investments and factories there. It inspires optimism. Part of the production is for local consumption and another part is for export. I go and visit one of these factories so that that the Egyptian citizen will realize what industries we have and what others are being established. This is also in order to prompt investors, Egyptians and otherwise, to get involved in these industries. I wish to raise the citizen's standard of living despite the increase of prices abroad which is affecting us.

With regard to the Arab world, by God we wish that the disputes would end and that amity would prevail in place of strife, opportunism, and all the problems that lead to nothing but backwardness for the Arab world.

Question: We know how you are always busy and occupied. We thank you for this interview and wish there was time to put more questions to Your Excellency.

Answer: Thank you. In my entire day I can find only 2 hours for rest at midday. When I try to recall when I have taken a vacation since I assumed responsibility, I cannot remember.

Question: Last year I asked you how you reconciled these activities with your family life and children.

Answer: Only briefly in the evening. Even then I sometimes have to work and make telephone calls. My time is interwoven.

Question: Do you still play squash?

Answer: Yes, I still do. How else could I relax?

Rushdi: No 'Specific Charges' in Hijacking

PM121451 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 10 Dec 85 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Interior Minister Tells *'UKAZ*: We Do Not Intend To Escalate the Situation"]

[Excerpt] Cairo — In an exclusive interview with *'UKAZ*, Interior Minister Major General Ahmad Rushdi has for the first time revealed sensational information connected with recent events in Egypt. He empahsized that his country has no intention of escalating the situation over the incident of the Egyptian aircraft hijacking. He added that his country does not accuse any particular side of the hijacking.

Rushdi revealed that strict security measures have been taken to prevent hijacking of Egyptian aircraft in the future. He also stressed that there are no Egyptian concentrations on Egypt's borders with Libya.

He denied that there are Egyptian forces in Malta to protect the wounded hijacker of the Egyptian aircraft against any possible assassination, pointing out that Malta is capable of ensuring its own security.

Asked about claims that a foreign side was behind the Egyptian aircraft's hijacking, he said: We cannot make any specific charges against any particular side but we condemn hijacking in general. This shows that Egypt has no intention of escalating the situation.

On Egypt's request for the extradition of the surviving hijacker, he said that contacts and negotiations were still in progress between the Foreign Ministry and the Maltese authorities. He added that in view of the good relations between the two countries Egypt expects Malta to hand the hijacker over to the Egyptian authorities. He also said: We are still gathering information about claims that Malta is holding two hijackers.

Maj Gen Ahmad Rushdi said that Egyptian public opinion is concerned about this incident because it was the first hijacking of an Egyptian airliner on an international flight. The incident, he noted, might have been the result of a security failure in the place where the airliner was before it was hijacked.

Asked if the Egyptian security authorities had achieved any definite results in connection with the mysterious assassination of the Israeli attache in Cairo, Rushdi said: We have some information and we have made long strides toward unraveling all the implications of the operation.

Conclusion of Tabah Talks Draws Comment

Badawi: 'Succesful'

NC121549 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, leader of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks, has stated that today's discussions were successful and that some progress has been achieved. The third round of the talks was concluded in Herzliyya this morning.

Avraham Tamir, the head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, reported that the two delegations had discussed possible measures to resolve the Tabah issue, including conciliation and international arbitration. All the information needed to present a report to the respective governments of the two countries, he added, is now available to both delegations. Discussion between

the members of the two delegations is expected to resume this afternoon. The talks will center on other pending issues.

Delegation Returns

NC122238 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Egypt's delegation to the round of Tabah talks which took place in Herzliyya, Israel returned to Cairo tonight. 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, the delegation leader, said that the 3 days of talks have given a more definite shape to the issues in question. The talks, he added, involved arbitration procedures and all other topics related to a settlement of the Tabah problem. Badawi pointed out that he will report the outcome of the talks to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and that further steps will be planned accordingly.

'Abd al-Majid Remarks

NC130705 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Egypt gives its blessing to any Arab rapprochement on condition that it does not take place at the expense of the Palestinian issue. He added: We are eager to have Tabah revert to Egyptian sovereignty. We have documents and papers proving that Tabah is Egyptian territory. Israel withdrew from it in 1957. We have also obtained other old documents from neutral sources which prove that Tabah is Egyptian. The best way to solve the dispute is by international arbitration.

Speaking at a cultural competition seminar for young people organized by the Higher Council for Youth and Sports at the NDP premises to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that Egypt has never shed the blood of a single Palestinian and its hands are clean. He said: Egypt has supported the Palestinian issue right from the beginning and is working sincerely and with all its might for the Palestinian people to obtain their rights. He added: We believe in our concept of this issue as a national and Arab one. Egypt does not make use of slogans and does not ignore the possible in favor of running after the impossible.

Referring to the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: We have not so far received any official note from the Maltese Government on the Palestinian terrorist who took part in the hijacking of the Egyptair plane. He continued: Reports that the Maltese Government has rejected Egypt's demand for the extradition of the terrorist are not true.

Mubarak Meets With NDP Youth Secretariat

NC111745 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met today with the NDP Youth Secretariat. The meeting was also attended by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, NDP secretary general, and minister of agriculture and food security. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and NDP Youth Secretary Mahmud al-Sharif were present as well. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak was eager to see the NDP youth in order to inquire about their activities nationwide. The president, Al-Sharif noted, expressed his views on topical foreign and domestic questions, and outlined the way Egyptian decionmaking addresses such issues. Mubarak indicated that Egypt's decions are based on a thorough investigation of the case at hand and a full awareness of our national interests.

According to Al-Sharif, Mubarak commented on economic issues and their implications for the development plan. At this point, Mubarak highlighted the need to face the accumulated problems of the past, particularly those concerning modernization and our infrastructure. President Mubarak stressed that the public seotor is the mainstay of our economy and that it should be revamped to strengthen its economic and social role. This ought to be accompanied by a similar boost to the private sector. He added that our business climate could be improved by increased stability and incentives. All this could produce more growth. President Mubarak emphasized that no economic policy should place additional burdens on lower-income groups. The rich should bear their fair share of the burden, he said, and denied that there will be any changes in subsidies. Subsidies will not be lifted, and we will focus on ways of ensuring that they reach their intended recipients. President Mubarak also praised the public's voluntary contributions to help repay Egypt's debts. These donations are being placed in a special account. The president pointed out the need to protect national products and industry without falling back into the indiscriminate prohibition of needed imports on which tariffs are duly levied.

In addition, the president discussed Egypt's foreign policy on international, Arab, African, and nonaligned questions.

The president then touched on the challenges facing Egypt and the conspiracies to damage its leading role, impugn its dignity, and blunt its quest for such goals as development, stability, democracy, and peace. The president also offered a detailed account of the circumstances surrounding the Egyptair hijacking and its ramifications. He stressed that Egypt plays a prominent part in the region and that its decisions are based on this fact. He said that Egypt's decisionmaking process is always compatible with its stature and a full awareness of its national and Arab responsibilities.

President Mubarak praised the Armed Forces and affirmed that their modernization must continue if they are to remain capable of defending Egypt's soil, sovereignty, and dignity.

Ghali Discusses Hijacking, Tabah Talks

GF121927 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 12 Dec 85 pp 1,6

[Report from Paris by William Zaki Waysa]

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali has made exclusive statements to *AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I*. On the convening of an international conference on the Middle East, he

stated: The idea of such a conference is merely a framework for negotiations, which is supported by Egypt. However, its fulfillment depends on the willingness of the USSR and the United States. If this desire does not exist, the nonconvening of an international conference must not be regarded as an obstacle to impede any other move.

Dr Ghali added: Egypt rejects a stalemate and the use of force to solve the Middle East problem. Egypt has supported all peace plans, including the Soviet and U.S. plans and the Fes resolutions. Druing the next few weeks, if a new peace plan is made, Egypt will support it. On what Egypt is expecting from the Taba talks, which began in Israel yesterday, Dr Ghali said: The Egyptian stand demands that Article 7 of the peace agreement signed by Israel and Egypt must be implemented. This article states that if a difference occurs between Israel and Egypt on the implementation of the agreement or its interpretation, it must be settled through arbitration. Egypt considers that the difference on defining the boundary is technical. Consequently, Egypt is adhering to international arbitration to solve the Tabah problem.

Concerning the Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement an whether King Husayn is exerting efforts to bring about an Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement, Dr Ghali said: Egypt welcomes any rapprochement that will bolster Arab solidarity. Up to now, there are no indications of an Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement. On the handing over of the hijacker of the Egyptian plane, he said: The Maltese authorities have declined to hand him over, but contacts are still being made with the Maltese Government about this issue.

Views Libya, Chad

NC121447 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Paris, 12 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Egypt supports the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. He added: This is not a new development; we have been supporting this since UN Resolution 338 was issued.

In a statement to Arab journalists in Paris today, Dr Ghali said that only minimal rapprochement and understanding between the two superpowers is necessary for this conference to be held. However, they have not yet reached this understanding. Therefore, Dr Ghali added: We must endeavor to make the international conference a reality. Until this has been realized, we must work hard to end the suffering of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Touching on the Egyptian-Israeli Tabah negotiations, Dr Ghali said that the Egyptian stand is crystal clear: Implementation of Article 7 of the peace treaty. This article stipulates that any dispute between Egypt and Israel over the implementation or interpretation of the treaty's provisions should be settled by arbitration. Dr Ghali pointed out that the dispute over the Tabah boundary line is technical and must, therefore, be settled by international arbitration.

Dr Ghali noted that Egypt's position on the Chad issue has not changed. Egypt supports the legitimate government in Ndjamena and all the resolutions adopted by the OAU in this regard. Egypt, Dr Ghali added, opposes any foreign intervention that would change Chad's border lines.

Commenting on reports of a Libyan troop concentration in Chad, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: We have heard this but we have no comment.

Asked whether King Husayn of Jordan is trying to promote a Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement following Syria and Jordan's, Dr Ghali said that Egypt welcomes a rapprochement between any two Arab countries because this will lead to Arab solidarity. There have been no signs of a reconciliation between Egypt and Syria thus far.

Commenting on reports of a possible summit meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Dr Ghali said: I have no information on this. However, I can say that any disputes between Egypt and an Arab or African state should be solved peacefully.

Shatlah Discusses Trade With CSSR Minister

NC121159 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) — Dr Muhammad Naji Shatlah, minister of supply and internal trade, received CSSR Slovak Trade Minister Jaroslav Zelko, who is currently visiting Cairo, this morning. Slavomir Novak, CSSR ambassador in Cairo, and Engineer Majdi 'Abd al-Jawad, Supply Ministry under secretary for foreign affairs, attended the meeting.

'Abd al-Jawad said that ways to bolster commercial ties, particularly in the field of supply commodities, were discussed. They also discussed ways to implement the agreement which was signed by the Egyptian supply minister during his visit to the CSSR in February. Under the agreement, the CSSR is to export 250,000 tons of sugar to Egypt for 5 years. The CSSR will study the possibility of contributing to developing mill equipment and exploiting animal and fish remains in the manufacture of fertilizers.

Further on Visit by ICO Secretary General

Meets Lutfi

NC121521 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi met with ICO General Secretary Sharifuddin Pirzada today. The ICO official is currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, Pirzada commended Egypt's role and return to the organization. Egypt, he noted, has given substantial support to the propagation of Islam through Al-Azhar al-Sharif, Islamic advocates, and religious books. Pirzada expressed his hope that Egypt's role within the organization would increase. Those attending the meeting also discussed the ICO's role in bringing an end to the Iraq-Iran war. They reviewed the situation in Afghanistan, expressing support for the Afghan mujahidin's struggle on behalf of their just cause.

Departs for Jeddah

NC121904 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) — ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada left Cairo tonight for Jeddah, ending his 3-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, Pirzada said that he and President Mubarak had discussed various issues of concern to the Islamic world. He also noted that these talks had been constructive and sincere. All the issues of interest to the Islamic world, he added, will be discussed at the 16th session of the 'slamic foreign ministers conference scheduled to be held in Rabat from 6 to 10 January 1986. These issues include the Middle East, the Iraq-Iran war, drought, and famine.

Through Al-Azhar, Pirzada said, Egypt is eager to reinforce the ICO's efforts and to spread the word of Islam in collaboration with other Muslim countries.

Pirzada was seen off by Muhsin al-Diwani, the Foreign Ministry's chief of protocol.

Jordanians Need Not Obtain Residence Permits

NC121324 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The agreement exempting Jordanian citizens in Cairo from the need to obtain residence permits has taken effect. This was agreed upon during the talks between Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi and his Jordanian counterpart Zayd al-Rifa'i at the end of November, and was announced by the director of Arab affairs in the Foreign Ministry. He said that Egypt is currently acting to implement the joint higher Egyptian-Jordanian committee's previous resolutions to bolster Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation.

Commentary: PLO Recognition of Israel 'Formality'

NC121431 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "U.S. Stand on Peace Process in Middle East"]

[Text] In the speeches and statements made by President Husni Mubarak during the past week, there is emphasis on some important facts pertaining to the Palestinian issue, which is the core of the Middle East conflict. We can sum up these facts as follows: First, no solution of the Middle East issue can be reached if the PLO is ignored.

Second, the United States is trying to ignore the PLO. It wasted 3 months on trying to choose the names of the Palestinian delegation members and eliminating those who are connected with the PLO. It is illogical to waste so much time selecting two or three for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Third, the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, whether we like it or not.

These facts are well known to all those concerned with the Middle East issue. President Mubarak's emphasis on them was aimed, therefore, at urging the United States to take deliberate action, as soon as possible, to preserve the momentum of the peace march in the Middle East. Otherwise, everything will be lost.

The statements about the Palestinian issue made in London by George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, have attracted attention. The U.S. secretary has declared that time is going by without any progress in overcoming the obstacles that obstruct the realization of the U.S. objective, namely, the holding of direct negotiations among Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians before the end of this year. Shultz pointed out that the basic obstacles have to do with who is to represent the Palestinians and how to respond to King Husayn's demand for an international framework for such negotiations. He then declared that the United States will not deal with the PLO as long as the organization recognizes neither Israel's right to exist, nor the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The U.S. secretary of state described the PLO members as extremists who should be resisted rather than replaced by substitutes. Thus, thanks to the United States, the issue of embarking on the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East remains a vicious circle. We cannot imagine that the United States really believes that it is possible to reach a solution for the Palestinian issue without the plo. Thus, the conditions laid down by Washington for PLO participation in the peace process are time-wasting and unrealistic. The PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist is a pure formality. The PLO, through its endeavor to be a major party to the peace process within the framework of an international conference, is implicitly recognizing Israel. Thus, the obstacles referred to by the U.S. secretary are not real obstacles at all.

Khark Raided 13 Dec; Maritime Target Hit 12 Dec

JN130834 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0818 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The only answer that the lying, corrupt, and warmongering Iranian rulers deserve is more successive blows. We will continue on this course until the end of the war. Our gigantic Air Force has carried out the following missions:

1. At 0800 [0500 GMT] today, the heroic Iraqi eagles launched a successful new air raid on Khark Island's installations. They scored violent, effective hits on their targets and left them in flames.

2. At 0100 today, [2200 GMT on 12 December] our brave eagles launched an air raid against a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate, effective hit.

Having carried out these two missions with their well-known precision accurancy, our eagles returned to the homeland, safe and triumphant. God be praised for his support.

[Dated] 13 December 1985

Khark Raided Late 12 Dec

JN130733 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0722 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Let the aggressive Iranian rulers know that we will not hesitate to strike at any vital Iranian target anytime we choose. The great Iraqi eagles of the air launched a new air raid against Khark Island's installations at 2245 [1945 GMT] yesterday. They scored accurate, effective hits on their targets, leaving them in flames. Our eagles returned to the homeland, safe and triumphant. Praised be God, the best of supporters.

[Dated] 13 December 1985

Communique on 11-12 Dec Khark Raids, Other Actions

JN121734 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Communique No 2,050 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 12 December 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our people and our valiant Armed Forces possess, with God's assistance, the ability and the power to triumph over evil and evildoers in defense of earthly principles and divine values.

The following is a roundup of our units' activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. To further pound the heads of the despotic Iranian rulers, to tighten the noose around their necks, to destroy their frustrated concentrations, and to deprive them of the resources which they exploit for the purpose of aggression, our giant Air Force, the sword which always remains unsheathed, carried out the following missions:

a. At 1830 yesterday our eagles carried out an air raid on the Khark Island facilities, scoring accurate hits and setting their targets on fire.

b. At 1314 today our valiant eagles carried out another air raid on the Khark Island facilties, scoring direct hits and setting their targets on fire.

c. At 1015 [as heard] today our eagles carried out a fierce raid on a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring accurate hits.

d. The valiant Iraqi eagles carried out several devastating raids on enemy troop concentrations, positions, weapons emplacements, military hardware, and ammunition dumps. Our valiant eagles carried out 171 combat missions during which they inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and scored direct hits. Flames were seen spiraling and columns of smoke billowing from the enemy targets hit by our brave fighters in the II, III, IV, and VI Army Corps sectors. After accomplishing all their missions with their famous courage, our brave eagles safely returned with their planes to the homeland, bringing tidings of victory.

2. Our hero helicopter knights carried out daring and devastating raids on enemy positions opposite our units' positions in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. They dealt fierce blows to their targets, scoring accurate and direct hits after which they safely returned to base under God's protection.

3. Our hero units in the II Army Corps central sector, using artillery and other types of weapons, dealt intensive blows to enemy forward units, killing three, wounding two, and destroying three infantry positions and one ammunition dump.

4. One ammunition dump was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. The forces of the despotic clique ruling Iran shelled Al-Faw with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 Dec 1985

Sources on French Supplying New 'AS-30' Missiles

GF121535 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 11 Dec 85
pp 1, 16

[Dispatch from *AL-QABAS* office in Paris]

[Text] Well-informed sources in Paris have told *AL-QABAS* that France recently supplied Iraq with a huge quantity of new

devastating air-to-surface missiles. These missiles are regarded as more sophisticated and efficient than "Exocet" missiles or any other missiles which the Iraqis have so far acquired. This operation is shrouded with secrecy, and the concerned French sides are reserved on discussing this matter.

These sources told *AL-QABAS* about the qualifications and characteristics of these new missiles which the Iraqis have so far not begun to use, and which when used may change the course of the air war against the Iranian targets. The name of the new missile is AS-30. The French military factories concluded manufacturing these missiles earlier this year. The new missile can be launched from French aircraft — [such as] "Mirage F-1" which Iraq possesses huge quantities of — against stationary and mobile targets such as ships. It can penetrate and inflict serious damage and destroy huge or fortified installations. This missile operates by laser rays, which gives it the supreme capability of accurately zeroing in on its target. It can also be launched from a high altitude, thus enabling the pilot to keep his fighter out of the range of enemy air defenses after a missile is launched. Many other types of modern French fighters can carry these missiles too. The weight of the missile is 520 kg, which includes 240 kg of explosives.

AL-QABAS learned that Iraq could be one of the very few countries in the world to acquire these new French missiles. These missiles will actually give the Iraqi forces further capability to strike at the Iranian economic, military, and strategically sensitive targets and installations. The question that arises in this regard is, when will the Iraqis use these missiles? Well-informed Western military experts who are aware of the situation in Iraq and of the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war believe that these new missiles are part of the weapons and military hardware which the Iraqis will use in the event of a major Iranian ground offensive on Iraqi territory, a matter which observers believe will take place in the next 2 months.

Observers noted that the Iraqi fighters in the past few days raided Iranian military concentrations in the southern area of the front, as this area is believed to be the spot on which Iran will concentrate their upcoming offensive with the aim of controlling the city of Basrah and of cutting the Baghdad-Basrah road. The Iranians have so far failed to attain this goal.

AL-QABAS learned from well-informed Arab sources that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati insisted during his talks with Saudi officials earlier this week on the need to absolutely implement all Iranian conditions which pertain to ending the war with Iraq before Tehran approves an end to this war. The most outstanding conditions are on Iranian demands to change the Iraqi regime and to pay hefty financial reparations to Iran. *AL-QABAS* learned that the Saudi officials tried to make Iran show flexibility, but this was confronted by Velayati's intransigence. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was keen to personally receive the Iranian foreign minister in an attempt to convince Tehran to end this devastating war, believing that this could snowball into developing relations between Iran and the Gulf countries in various fields. This Iranian intransigence made Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal make a statement that surprised observers for its frankness when he said that the talks with Velayati did not yield any positive result with regard to ending the war with Iraq. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was quick to mention that Iraq has a clear and inalienable position and that it wishes to arrive at a peaceful and durable solution of the dispute with Iran. He hoped that Iran would adopt a similar position.

PRC's Wu Xueqian Meets With RCC's Ramadan

JN121153 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1104 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Wu Xueqian, member of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, state councillor, and foreign minister, here today. They discussed the cordial, developing relations between the two countries, ways to expand their economic and trade cooperation during the next phase, and increasing the contribution of Chinese companies to implementing Iraqi development projects.

Ramadan and Wu Xueqian expressed their satisfaction with the level of the ties between the two countries and the desire of the two leaderships to expand and promote these relations in all fields.

Meets Assembly Speaker

JN121120 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0936 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Textz] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) — Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'dun Hammadi today received Wu Xueqian, member of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, state councillor, and foreign minister, and his delegation. They discussed cordial bilateral relations and prospects for promoting them. The Chinese minister praised the Iraqi stand and efforts on various levels to end the war and establish peace with Iran. He stressed the need for all peace-loving nations to double their efforts through the United Nations and various other international organizations to put pressure on Iran to accept a cease-fire, end the war, and solve problems between the two countries by peaceful means in accordance with the principles of international law.

Italian Foreign Trade Minister Meets Al-'Uraybi

JN121123 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0938 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi met today with Nicola Capria, Italian foreign trade minister and head of the Italian side to the Iraqi-Italian joint committee for economic and technical cooperation, currently visiting Iraq. They reviewed bilateral relations in the fields of oil and energy and joint cooperation in implementing development projects.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN121350 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received Nicola Capria, Italian foreign trade minister. They

discussed relations between the two friendly countries, as well as issues of mutual interest. The head of the first international department at the Foreign Ministry and the Italian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

PDRY Industry Minister Arrives on 3-Day Visit

JN121103 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) — PDRY Industry Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Aziz arrived here at dawn today leading a delegation on a 3-day visit to Iraq. He will hold talks with Iraqi officials on developing bilateral industrial cooperation.

Romanian Party Delegation Ends Visit, Departs

JN121100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0933 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) The Romanian Communist Party delegation led by Iosif Banc, member of the Romanian Communist Party Executive Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, left Baghdad today after a week-long visit to Iraq. The Romanian official held talks which resulted in the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Romanian Communist Party and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Banc reiterated his country's call for ending the Iraq-Iran war and reaching a peaceful solution to the problems between the two countries that will preserve their rights and sovereignty.

Jordan Supplies Syrian Towns With Electricity
JN122019 Amman Television Service in English
2000 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Jordan today began supplying four major Syrian towns with electric power. The Jordan Electricity Authority Director Muhammad 'Arafah said that Dar'a, Al-Suwaydah, al-Qunaytirah, and Shaykh Miskin, all in southern Syria close to the Jordanian border, have been linked to the Jordanian national grid. He said that nearly 500,000 Syrian inhabitants will benefit from the power supplies.

The project came in the course of a cooperation program between the two countries. Mr 'Arafah said that the supply of the four towns with power was an implementation of a 1979 agreement on electric power exchange between Jordan and Syria.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Views Relationship With Syria
JN121516 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
12 Dec 85 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Special Relationship Between Damascus and Amman]

[Text] When we talk about Jordanian-Syrian relations, we speak about the firm principles of the distinguished pan-Arab organic relationship between the two fraternal countries as well as principles that impose themselves not only on Damascus and Amman, but also on all joint Arab action.

Jordanian-Syrian relations have always been the starting point of the Arab reality, the basis of its strength, and the motive force for Arab solidarity. Even in the darkest hours when these relations witnessed differences in views and different interpretations of situations, this ultimately served joint Arab action and the supreme pan-Arab interest.

Jordan's distinguished relations with its Arab brethren, whether Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese, or Iraqis, have always embodied the pan-Arab trend that governs this country's pan-Arab march and always places it in the limelight ready for effective action on the Arab, regional, and international levels. The Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian, Iraqi, and all Arab roles are regarded in Jordan's overall pan-Arab viewpoint as an indivisible, integrated role. Although differences and different interpretations may distort some parties' understanding and perceptions of this Jordanian viewpoint, Jordan's achievements up to now in terms of bridging gaps between brothers and achieving understanding and cooperation among them constitute a ray of hope for the nation toward achieving effective Arab solidarity through patience and sacrifice.

The special Jordanian-Syrian relationship has pan-Arab and militant significance in confronting the challenges of this age and phase. While awaiting further steps toward cohesion and understanding, we continue to hope that more positive factors will emerge and that more meetings and understanding wil be achieved among the brothers in order to serve this nation's causes, its masses, and its future generations.

Syrian Forces 'May Be Last Resort' in Beirut
JN130910 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
13 Dec 85 p 1

[Editorial: "Beirut's Problem and the Need for Greater Force"]

[Text] We would like to see the security plan in West Beirut enter the implementation phase because the plans and agreements that were written on paper and killed in the streets make us follow the new plan with a great deal of doubt and a wait-and-see attitude.

It is very difficult for the armed militias to accept the principle of relinquishing their control of important parts of the capital to central authority that has the status of the impotent Lebanese central authority. This is because these militias' control is not only a political-military type of control but there are also financial interests involved aimed at continuing to professionally recruit the youth. Moreover, this control is financially beneficial for the youths themselves and is assured as long as they carry weapons. In addition to the big militias, the Amal and the socialist, there are groups standing on the left or right of these militias and practicing fierce types of extremism which adhere more to non-Lebanese and non-Syrian patries.

And even if the security plan is implemented, then what about East Beirut, which also has armed militias that are divided? The Lebanese forces are not in full control there. The opposition Ja'ja' groups together with Bashir al-Jumayyil's widow have their own armed forces. Moreover, the Phalange Party itself still exists and may, in any case, restore its control over the gunmen. Therefore, is it rational to empty West Beirut of gunmen and keep East Beirut as it is?

There are many questions which place an observer of the current Lebanese situation before a big question mark for which he finds no answer. This may be the required thing. [sentence as published]. The Syrian forces may be the last resort, exactly as happened in Tripoli, whose military situation came to a happy end.

Crown Prince Hasan Returns From Iraq Visit
JN122029 Amman Television Service in English
2000 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan returned to Amman this evening at the end of a visit to Iraq where he held talks with President Saddam Husayn and senior Iraqi officials. He was met by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, the chief of the Royal Court, the court minister, the chief Islamic justice, and other officials.

Upon departure from Baghdad, Prince Hasan was seen off by the vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and senior officials. His highness was accompanied on the visit by Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali.

Islamic Jihad Claims Credit for U.S. Plane Crash

NC122304 Paris AFP in English 2302 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Beirut, Dec 12 (AFP) — An anonymous caller claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad Organisation claimed that the group caused today's air crash in Newfoundland in which 250 U.S. soldiers and eight crew members died.

In a telephone call to a foreign news agency here, he said the explosion was timed to take place as the plane landed in the United States, but happened in Canada because the plane was delayed during a stopover in West Germany.

The Douglas DC-8 airliner, on its way from Cairo to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, had made a second refuelling stop in Gander, Newfoundland, where it crashed shortly after take-off. There were no survivors.

The soldiers on board had been serving as part of a Multinational Peacekeeping Force in the Sinai Desert since July.

The caller said the attack had been carried out with the Egyptian Arab Movement.

Hizballah Claims Cited

NC131443 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1425 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] An unidentified person, who claimed to be speaking for Hizballah, called France Inter this morning and said that he [as heard] was responsible for the crash of the U.S. airliner in Canada yesterday. The caller explained that the airliner was mined with explosive devices set to go off when the plane was in the United States. However, the airliner was delayed in the FRG city of Cologne, where it had stopped for refueling. Thus the explosion and crash of the airliner took place in Canadian skies.

Norwegian Diplomats 'Warned' Not To Return

NC121254 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The Norwegian Embassy in Lebanon has called on the chief of the organization that protects embassies to tighten security around the embassy building. This comes 3 weeks before the expected return of the Norwegian charge d'affaires to Beirut from Damascus. It has been learned that an anonymous person contacted the Norwegian Embassy this morning and warned the diplomats, who had left for Damascus, not to return to West Beirut.

Further Reportage on Visit by UK's Renton

Meets Al-Jumayyil, Karami

NC121320 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Timothy Renton, British parliamentary under secretary for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, accompanied by the new British ambassador to Lebanon, John (Grey), held a series of meetings with Lebanese officials today. During the meetings the Lebanese situation, particularly in the south, was discussed, as were current regional issues.

Renton reviewed these matters today with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, who invited him to lunch.

The British minister had begun his tour by visiting Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who gave him an explanation of the situation in the south in light of Israel's occupation of the border strip. Karami also briefed Renton on Israel's daily attacks on the citizens in the south, and asked him to convey this picture to British officials so that they may understand Israel's real intentions in Lebanon and the region.

The British minister then visited former Minister Marwan Hamadah. The two men discussed the current political situation at home and in the area as a whole.

Holds News Conference

NC121707 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The Middle East crisis and the situation in Lebanon were discussed at a meeting held in the Presidential Palace today between President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Timothy Renton, British parliamentary under secretary for foreign and Commonwealth affairs.

At a news conference following the meeting, the British minister said: I am very pleased with this opportunity to visit Lebanon. It is my first trip to the country since I assumed my new responsibilities of dealing with problems in this region, particularly the problem of Lebanon. This, in fact, constitutes an important part of my tour.

He added: As you know, Geoffrey Howe, the British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, visited Lebanon in October 1984. During his visit, he met with the president of the Republic and with the prime minister. We believe that it is very important to continue contacts on this level.

Timothy Renton affirmed: I am very grateful to President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami for giving me the opportunity to meet with them. During my short stay here, I have also been able to meet with representatives of various political forces in both East and West Beirut. I believe that it is very important for me to see the situation for myself. Despite the many obvious problems in Lebanon, I have witnessed a dynamism and determination among the Lebanese people themselves. These are qualities which we greatly appreciate.

He continued: We have followed reports on the tripartite negotiations with interest. We hope that these talks will lead to a practical and mature agreement. We also hope that the current efforts will lead to security in the capital as a whole and to effective and lasting accord. All such efforts give us additional incentive to work toward stability and prosperity.

Departs for Israel

NC130642 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Timothy Renton, British parlaimentary under secretary for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, left Beirut for Tel Aviv via Cyprus yesterday afternoon. During his visit to Lebanon, the British under secretary met with the president and the prime minister and discussed the issue of the kidnapped British journalist Alec Colet.

At a news conference he gave after his talks with the president, Under Secretary Renton expressed his hope that the tripartite negotiations held in Damascus will lead to a practical and successful agreement.

Under Secretary Renton emphasized that Britain will continue to give moral and material support to Lebanon at the UN Security Council. He recalled Britain's denunciation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. He said that he regarded the Israeli presence in the south as contrary to UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 425, and expressed the view that UNIFIL ensures stability in south Lebanon.

Junblatt Says Lebanon 'Second Palestine'

NC120938 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English
9-15 Dec 85 pp 14-18

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, minister of tourism and public works and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, by Nadim Abu Ghannam; conducted in Arabic — place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu Ghannam] Sham'un's decision to lift the oil subsidies has been supported or opposed along sectarian lines. Should we assume that you will try to thwart his decision?

[Junblatt] What is needed is a clear stance on the part of Premier Rashid Karami on the issue of subsidies and the suggested new budget. We also need a clear stance from the so-called nationalist deputies in parliament, otherwise Sham'un's decision will be the first of a series of moves that threaten the people with famine. Raising wages will not solve any problem, and when people are hungry, no one can stop them from taking what is theirs, even if they have to do so by force.

A clear stance is demanded from (Education and Labor Minister Salim) Al-Huss and others too. Moreover, I link the decision to lift the state subsidies with the new state budget. I do not differentiate between these two issues.

[Abu Ghannam] In other words, you oppose the decision?

[Junblatt] I reject it in toto and in details. I don't understand the principle of "sparing" the treasury. How should I react if billions are spared by lifting the subsidies, if these billions will buy new weapons and ammunition to destroy the mountain and the southern suburbs, to launch new military adventures, or to finance private deals for the Al-Jumayyils and those on the Al-Jumayyil payroll.

[Abu Ghannam] SLA [South Lebanon Army] Commander Antoine Lahd is reportedly mobilizing his troops in preparation for an attack on the outskirts of Sidon. Do you think Lahd is capable of reaching these areas?

[Junblatt] Lahd alone couldn't do that, and these reports simply indicate that Israel would support him in such an attack. The Israeli operation close to Rashayya was also an indicator of a change in the Israeli policy, or rather that Israel is now considering a new aggression. Recent statements by (Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin and others are hinting at and calling for war.

[Abu Ghannam] How do the PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] and Amal Movement react to that?

[Junblatt] The PSP and Amal will do their duty in defending Sidon, Iqlim al-Kharrub and the Al-Shuf. We are also cooperating with the Nasirite Popular Organization and all the national forces on the ground.

[Abu Ghannam] When do you expect such a battle to take place?

[Junblatt] I don't know.

[Abu Ghannam] Should a battle erupt in the south, do you expect increased battles on the Suq al-Gharb front as a result of a Lebanese Army attempt to gain territory?

[Junblatt] All these issues are linked together: There's no difference between Lahd, (Army Commander-in-Chief) Michel 'Awn or "His Excellency" Amin al-Jumayyil.

If we look at the suggested new Army budget, we find that hundreds of millions of pounds are asked for more ammunition and equipment, and unfortunately the so-called ammunition and equipment, and unfortunately the so-called Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran seems to collaborate in that matter. All these issues are linked. Amin al-Jumayyil is awaiting a new Israeli adventure. We must remember his famous statement in 1981, when two Syrian helicopters were shot down. He said then that a great change was imminent in the area. He already knew about the Israeli invasion, that is, if he had not coordinated it. But people seem to forget the past.

[Abu Ghannam] How long will Suq al-Gharb be a battlefront? Does it represent a red line because it is so close to the presidential palace, or are you unable to reach a military solution there?

[Junblatt] No, it is an international red line. When the American warships intervened to help the sectarian army in Suq al-Gharb, we understood it represented an international red line. It will remain a battlefront until we reach a fair political balance in Lebanon, sometime in the future, I don't know when.

[Abu Ghannam] What is the truth about reports that you are allowing weapons and pro-'Arafat Palestinian fighters to enter Lebanon through the port of Khaldah?

[Junblatt] There are such rumors, but I believe everyone knows that I do not allow the unloading of weapons in Khaldah. You

can see that for yourself if you go to Khaldah; only ordinary merchandise is unloaded there. Moreover, we will soon be coordinating with (Amal leader) Nabih Birri on this issue, since he will be opening a port too.

Our position toward 'Arafat is known. We do not think his policy serves the Palestinian cause or that the return of Lebanon to the pre-1982 era would serve the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian people, or the Lebanese people.

[Abu Ghannam] How would you evaluate the relationship between the PSP and the Soviet Union, and do you plan to visit Moscow soon?

[Junblatt] The relation was and will remain good, and I think I will be going to the Soviet Union soon, maybe in February, to attend the extraordinary party meeting.

[Abu Ghannam] And how would you describe the relation of the PSP with socialist parties in other countries, especially after the disagreement that erupted between the PSP and the French Socialist Party?

[Junblatt] Bad, and they will remain bad. But I do not care about the so-called Socialist International; we have our own position concerning it. We are on good terms with some party leaders such as (Sweden's Olof) Palme, but I couldn't care less about what the French Socialist Party says or thinks. Moreover, if a delegation of the Socialist International is considering a visit to Lebanon, I would advise them against it.

[Abu Ghannam] Are any efforts being made to eliminate these differences?

[Junblatt] We tried, but it seems they have taken a clear stand in favor of Israel. The socialist parties in the world are in the main sympathetic to Israel's policy. This is a known historical fact: None of these parties condemned the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon, the oppression that still prevails there, or the fascist regime headed by "someone" in B'abda.

[Abu Ghannam] It was reported that an official of the French Socialist Party accused the PSP of being a Druze, sectarian party rather than a socialist one...

[Junblatt] Let him talk... His and other socialist parties support the Christians in Lebanon more than they support socialism; they too are sectarian parties.

[Abu Ghannam] A former British ambassador to an Arab country said that the partition of Lebanon would end the war here, whereas the war would continue as long as Lebanon is not divided. What is your comment?

[Junblatt] Allow me... Partition is one of the British traditions. When they quit India, they left behind them the seeds of a division that destroyed the Indian subcontinent. They did that in other countries they had colonized too.

Partition would be the death of Lebanon, and we do not wish to heed such stupid advice.

[Abu Ghannam] How long will the Lebanese war gon on?

[Junblatt] No answer.

[Abu Ghannam] You once told *MONDAY MORNING* in a private conversation that Lebanon will become a second Palestine. What would you say today about this statement?

[Junblatt] I still believe it is true. There is a plan to establish a sectarian mini-state or to partition the region through Lebanon. The plan has not been cancelled. It was suspended as a result of the mountain war, the upheaval in the southern suburbs, and the national resistance in the south, but it has not been suspended. It will only stop when the nationalist Arab Christians are given a role in the internal and external political equation. Until now, only the Christians who were in Israel and are probably still there have a role.

Sham'un on Construction Sector Subsidies

NC122001 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un held a meeting today with Victor Qasir, minister of economy, trade, industry, and oil; Rene Mu'awwad, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Financial Committee; and Khattar Shibli, general director of the Finance Ministry. Sham'un later announced that the following were among the decisions made at this meeting: To lend the construction sector 1 billion Lebanese pounds, to extend 500 million Lebanese pounds in subsidies to the agricultural and industrial sectors, to raise the minimum wage, and to increase the cost of living allowance. These decisions, he said, will be implemented when the Labor Ministry completes its preparations of the price index.

General Strike Protests End of Fuel Subsidy

NC120953 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] All government and private institutions are observing a general strike today in the nationalist areas of Beirut, Al-Biqa', the north, and the south. The strike was called by the National Committee for Combating the High Cost of Living and Monopolies, as well as by the workers and labor and student unions.

A mammoth demonstration was staged this morning. The demonstrators marched to the headquarters of the National Federation of Trade Unions in Wat al-Musaytibah and blocked the streets leading to the Coca-Cola area. Operations at Beirut International Airport were suspended for 1 hour, from 0900 to 1000, to support the strike.

Our correspondent in the south has reported that a strike is also being observed in Sidon, Tyre, Al-Nabatiyah, and other districts. A large demonstration was staged in Sidon to express the citizens' rejection of the decision to end the fuel subsidy and the high prices affecting all their needs.

Forces Officials Leave for Talks in Damascus

NC121133 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Former Minister Michel al-Murr, Michel Samahah, and As'ad Shaftari have left for Damascus to hold talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The discussions will deal with the draft tripartite agreement in light of the amendments proposed by the Lebanese Forces.

Forces, Phalangists To Form Joint Committee

NC122143 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The Phalangist Party Political Bureau held its weekly meeting tonight under the chairmanship of party leader Dr Elie Karamah. The following resolutions were passed at the session:

1. A joint committee, composed of members from the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces, will be formed. The committee is to draft a blueprint for restructuring the party and defining its relation to the Lebanese Forces. A specific deadline should be fixed for the conclusion of the committee's work.

2. The joint committee will then submit its draft to the Political Bureau. If the draft is approved, an emergency committee will be formed to carry out the following tasks: Supervising the party's reorganization; enhancing the atmosphere of reconciliation; formulating a concerted position on political and national issues; and working out solutions to current and potential disputes.

3. The emergency committee will consist of the Phalangist Party leader, deputy leader, and secretary general. It will also include the chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, the Lebanese Forces chief of staff, and a Phalangist member of the Executive Committee. The Phalangist Party leader will act as a chairman of the committee.

4. During the transitional stage, the management of the party and the forces will remain independent.

Israeli Paratroopers Said Landing in South

NC121657 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] At 1715 today, the Israeli forces lifted a siege which they had imposed earlier on the town of Tallusah in the south. The enemy forces arrested three residents.

There have been no reports on the results of the operation launched against enemy positions near Tallusah the day before yesterday by faithful resistance men.

Reports from the south indicate that Israeli paratroopers are carrying out landing operations in the town of Markaba. Two explosions have been heard and are believed to be the result of an enemy offensive against the town.

'Fierce' Fighting Raging in Mountain Areas

NC121425 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The situation along the mountain lines has deteriorated again. It was reported that fierce fighting has been raging along the Kafr Shima-Al-Shuwayfat line since 1515. Meanwhile, the clashes that broke out along the Bsaba-Al-Ma'rufiyah line at 1345 have stopped.

Amal-Palestinian Clash Reported in Beirut Camp

NC122157 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2115 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] A fight between Amal members and Palestinians took place in the Sabra camp between 2120 and 2200 today. Machineguns and grenades were used in the clash. The followup committee intervened to bring an end to the confrontation.

Sniper fire is still being directed at Suq al-Gharb, 'Arayya, and Dahr al-Wahsh from 'Alayh. Al-Tayyunah and 'Ayn al-Rummanah are also targets of intermittent sniper fire. A woman has been killed by the shooting in Al-Tayyunah.

Lebanese Forces Hold 'Positive' Talks in Damascus

NC130731 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Former Minister Michel al-Murr and two Lebanese Forces representatives on the tripartite committee, Michel Samahah and As'ad Shaftar, meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus yesterday. The talks focused on reviving the efforts to achieve national accord and end the state of war, bearing in mind the Lebanese Forces' comments on the draft tripartite agreement.

It has been learned that the Lebanese Forces delegation reviewed the tripartite agreement and amendments and remarks pertaining to it. The atmosphere of the talks was described as positive and it was said that understanding prevailed. Al-Murr, Samahah, and Shaftari will return to Damascus within the next 48 hours. The Lebanese Forces delegation visited Patriarch Hazim in Damascus and briefed him on the current efforts.

Sources close to Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt believe they will go to Damascus at the end of this week to discuss the West Beirut security plan with the Syrian officials and to be briefed by Khaddam on the outcome of the Lebanese Forces delegation's talks in Damascus.

Economy Minister on Trade Ties With Jordan

JN121030 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
12 Dec 85 p 3

[By 'Afifah al-Kaluti]

[Text] Amman — Syrian Minister of Economy and External Trade Muhammad al-'Imadi Wednesday said that his country will continue to import Jordanian agricultural products and said that Syria would also be willing to purchase and re-market Jordanian industrial products.

In an interview with the *JORDAN TIMES* and *AL-RA'Y*, Dr al-'Imadi said that the volume of last year's trade between Jordan and Syria amounted to 200 million Syrian pounds which he described as a "very low figure in view of the two countries' trading potential." The subject of bilateral trade was taken up in discussions between teams from both countries led by Dr al-'Imadi for Syria and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir for Jordan, and agreement was reached on means of increasing the volume of trade between them, he continued.

Dr al-'Imadi, who was accompanying Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm on a visit to Jordan, said that his talks with Dr al-Mu'ashshir also resulted in an agreement to call boards of directors of joint Syrian-Jordanian companies to hold meetings soon to make an assessment of their activities and to offer proposals for their respective general assemblies.

A special joint committee for promoting trade would also meet in a month's time and present proposals to the ministers of trade in both countries, Dr al-'Imadi said.

The Syrian minister continued, saying that the joint companies' board of directors meetings are required to present plans for expanding the activities of their companies with a view to benefiting the economies of both countries.

On Wednesday, the progress of work at the Jordanian- Syrian joint industrial zone was discussed during a meeting of the board of directors of the Jordanian-Syrian joint industrial zone company. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Audit Bureau president and the company's chairman of the board Hashim al-Dabbas.

During the meeting, which was attended by members of the board from the Jordanian and Syrian sides, the council reviewed works at the zone's installations, financial expenditures during this year, as well as ways of furthering company investments during next year. The board also approved the company's working programme for the next year and suggested its new budget.

The zone is being set up between the Jordanian village of Jabir and the Syrian village of Nasib.

TISHRIN on Shultz' Statement on PLO Position

JN121019 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0857 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Damascus, 12 Dec (SANA) — In a commentary today, the newspaper *TISHRIN* said that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has reiterated the firm U.S. refusal to recognize the PLO until the latter recognizes the legitimacy of the existence of the Zionist State of Israel. The paper added that this statement confirms the unchanging U.S. Middle East policy.

The paper noted that if we review the various U.S. stands, we observe that Washington firmly and resolutely rejects any move that would lead to a Palestinian national entity because it will undermine the legitimacy of the Zionist entity. The United States participates in launching many battles to wipe out the Palestinian identity, the paper added. It explained that this is a lesson for those Arabs who seek a policy that does not meet the minimum requirements drawn up in the 1982 Fes summit resolutions. We do not forget those who conceded so many Arab principles that they signed peace treaties with Israel with direct U.S. participation. We also do not forget the humiliating stands of those who dominate the PLO, which is supposed to draw up a firm, principled policy that opposes the U.S. and Israeli policies of seeking to crush the Palestinian character.

Concluding its commentary, *TISHRIN* said that the United States and Israel recognize only the agents and cooperate with them to create a schism in Palestinian ranks. This schism is the only logical result of the unity of stands between the PLO head and those who meet with Murphy and other U.S. officials. The policy of these persons cannot deceive anyone. It will only make them miserable and leave them exposed.

Cultural Cooperation Agreement Signed With CSSR

JN101938 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Dec 85

[Text] Damascus, 10 Dec (SANA) — The new implementation program for cultural cooperation for 1985, 1986, and 1987 was signed between Syria and the CSSR here today. It was signed by Assistant Education Minister 'Abd al-Hamid Darkal for the Syrian side and by CSSR Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roman Narozny for the CSSR side. The program is intended to develop cooperation between the two countries in educational, cultural, and information areas, as well as in the areas of higher education and the exchange of expertise and academic scholarships. It is also intended to continue cooperation between their two national committees to support UNESCO and to continue friendly cooperation relations between Syria and the CSSR in the service of their joint interests.

Defense Ministry Denies Procurement Irregularities

TA130730 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0700 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] U.S. Customs officials say that secret plans of U.S. plants were uncovered in a raid on the warehouse and offices of a firm exporting defense items to Israel. These plans deal with the coating of the cannons of the new tank, the M-1. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the reference is to a chrome coating designed to improve the cannon's quality. According to the authorities, as quoted by NBC, notations by Israeli defense personnel were found on the documents.

In Israel, the Defense Ministry has stated that it has not received any notification from the United States about suspicions concerning an improper procurement deal made by the ministry's representatives. The Defense Ministry's spokesman has stated that procurement deals in the United States are legal and official and made with the knowledge and approval of the authorities.

Military sources have told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the method used in the operation is astonishing since the participation of television crews in such investigations is unusual between friendly countries.

'Misunderstanding' Cited

TA131051 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1030 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] More on the tank cannons affair in the United States: People in Jerusalem say there is no resemblance between this affair and the Pollard affair. Our correspondent notes that contrary to the Pollard affair, in which Israel delayed its official reaction and the initial reactions were not clear, this time it was decided in Jerusalem to unequivocally deny the report, and this is indeed what happened: Denials have been published through the Israeli Embassy in Washington and the Defense Ministry in Israel. Political circles in Jerusalem have made the assessment that perhaps the entire affair originated from a misunderstanding between various authorities in the United States. Our correspondent notes that there are no discussions in Jerusalem concerning this issue, and there is no concern that this will develop into an affair between Israel and the United States.

U.S. Delegation Begins Interrogation in Spy Case

TA121834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] American investigators began questioning Israeli officials in Tel Aviv today about Jonathan Pollard, the American accused of spying for Israel. An American official said the meeting took place in an undisclosed location. He would not say who had been interrogated, or how long the American investigators would be in Israel. The official added: The length of the inquiry would depend on how many people would be questioned and how long the interviews would take.

Officials Comment on Outcome of Tabah Talks

Peres Ready To Risk Crisis

TA131010 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Dec 85 p 1

[Report by Yosi Melman]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is encouraged by the outcome of the talks in Herzliyya and determined to bring the negotiations with Egypt to a positive conclusion.

Peres has been holding consultations on the issue with Labor Party ministers and will try to persuade his Likud colleagues in the national unity government to support the "package" which also includes international arbitration for a solution of the Tabah conflict. The opinion prevailing among the prime minister's close associates is that he will also be prepared to risk a government crisis.

Peres will try to persuade the Likud ministers that in exchange for their agreement to have the Tabah question submitted to arbitration there will be an improvement in relations with Egypt, including the return of the Egyptian ambassador and normalization in trade, tourism, cultural, and other relations.

The entire issue will be discussed by the Cabinet on Wednesday. If he fails to persuade the Likud ministers, Peres will contemplate the notion of submitting the issue to the entire Cabinet, although this contravenes the coalition agreement, or even of exercising his authority as prime minister to inform the Egyptian president that Israel agrees to arbitration.

Associates of Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the *DAVAR* correspondent that the minister had not changed his position and insists on the proposal to solve the dispute through a process of conciliation. "If Peres and the Labor Party want to create a crisis," these associates said, "the Likud will not quit the government but will rather demand that Peres go to the president, bring about the resignation of the entire Cabinet, and declare early elections."

Labor Party ministers noted that in addition to the differences over the question of Tabah, the land scandal in the West Bank which has impaired the Likud's image in the eyes of the public may be a convenient catalyst for the Labor Party to call early elections.

Tamir, Sason: 'Progress' Made

TA121628 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The round of Tabah talks with the Egyptians ended in Herzliyya today. It has been reported that significant progress was made with regard to understanding the two sides' positions, as well as on some points that concern the arbitration bill. Avraham Tamir, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, says that the talks resulted in information on the Tabah issue that will be brought to the Inner Cabinet for a decision. The Egyptian delegation will return to Cairo this evening and report to President Mubarak on progress made in the talks. So far no date has

been set for a follow-up to the talks; the next stage will be determined by the political echelons in Jerusalem and Cairo. Our correspondent Eldad Beck is reporting from Herzliyya:

Both the Israeli and Egyptian representatives to the Herzliyya talks point to very serious progress made during the 3 days of deliberations, progress in the understanding of the two sides' positions and in defining the elements to appear in the arbitration bill, the document which contains the three possible solutions — conciliation, compromise, or arbitration — and which can serve as a basis for a decision by the political level.

Progress was mainly made in a meeting of the delegation heads that convened this morning in the room of Dr 'Abd al-Halim Badawi on the 12th floor of the Daniyyel Hotel, rather than at the regular meeting hall. At the end of this meeting, the Israeli and Egyptian representatives emerged with a document containing the Israeli and Egyptian positions on the points of the arbitration bill. These positions will now be brought before the Jerusalem and Cairo political levels, which will decide on the way the Tabah dispute will be resolved. Among other things, the Israeli and Egyptian representatives in this meeting discussed arrangements which will be established in Tabah regardless of how the arbitration issue is resolved, namely, the compromise proposals.

After finishing the document, the heads of the delegations convened the other delegation members, who had wandered about idly for most of the day for a short, 30-minute session that marked the end of the talks. Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, told us today:

[Begin recording] We dealt with all the processes that may help achieve a solution. We discussed conciliation, compromise, and arbitration; in short, we have all the data that needs to be brought before the political level for it to make a decision. If you ask me whether we also discussed arrangements in the area apart from the arbitration issue, the answer is positive, but I cannot elaborate on this. [end recording]

David Kimche, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, admits that there is not complete agreement on the arbitration bill, but that there is rapprochement between the two sides on several points, especially technical ones, concerning the bill. For the first time, however, Kimche admits that there is greater understanding of the two sides' positions. Moshe Sason, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, told us today:

[Begin recording] The most important thing achieved by both parties here is in regaining the ability to hold a thorough, sincere, and practical dialogue. In my opinion, this is the most important and promising element, provided that both sides maintain it, for improvement in our relations in the future. [end recording]

Dr Badawi, the head of the Egyptian delegation, also shared the view about serious progress being made. According to him, the serious and sincere talks have led to greater understanding of the two sides' positions.

As stated, the decision is now up to the political level. We have learned that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres already scheduled a meeting with the director general of his office tomorrow to hear a detailed report on the talks. For the time being, a follow-up to the talks has not been determined.

Kimche: 'Greater Understanding'

TA121650 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] In a special interview to the IDF "Evening Newsreel" at the end of the talks, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche said that there is now greater understanding regarding the sides' positions, but that there are still issues on which Israel is demanding clarifications from Egypt, including the Ra's al-Burqa' tragedy and the PLO's relations with Egypt. Our correspondent Eldad Beck spoke with the Foreign Ministry director general.

[Begin recording] [Beck] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, in this morning's meeting between the delegation leaders, did you achieve understanding regarding the arbitration bill?

[Kimche] I must explain something here. Our mandate [preceding word in English] was not to achieve an agreement on an arbitration bill. Our mandate was to try to get a general view of the situation so that we can report to the Cabinet, or the Inner Cabinet, on what can be done regarding Tabah and how we should progress. We did not try to reach an agreement on an arbitration bill, and we certainly did not try to formulate an arbitration bill. We spent the entire time speaking about a bill that would suit either conciliation or arbitration. What we did gain was an overall picture, a much clearer picture than the one we had previously, of what can easily be achieved and of where there are very great differences of opinion. That is what we did achieve.

[Beck] Today, at the end of the Herzliyya talks, is there greater understanding between Israel and Egypt on everything involving the Tabah question?

[Kimche] I think there is in that we have a much better understanding now of what the Egyptian case [preceding word in English] is, and I assume that the Egyptians also understand our case much better. From this aspect there certainly is understanding.

[Beck] Did you also discuss a compromise on the Tabah issue with the Egyptians?

[Kimche] We discussed everything. We discussed compromise, conciliation, and arbitration, all in order to get as broad a view as possible. We also discussed other issues. We spoke about bilateral issues because, at least as far as I am concerned, Tabah is one of very many issues, and we want to make progress on a broad front in order to improve relations with Egypt. Therefore we must also deal with issues involving commerce, culture, and tourism, and all those matters that are currently frozen.

[Beck] Is there anything in the understanding you achieved on bilateral issues that can satisfy Israel?

[Kimche] We heard positive remarks on several issues, and on several other issues we have not yet heard everything we would like. For example, on Ra's al-Burqa' we had hoped to hear something clear and unequivocal from the Egyptians about their willingness to satisfy us, their willingness to pay compensation, and so on. They say we will receive all this after the trial of the soldier involved concludes, but in the meantime we have not received anything. Another issue disturbing us is the warm relations currently existing between Egypt and the PLO, and the Cairo Declaration, which, as is known, has certainly worried us. So there are questions to which answers were good, and there are questions which remain open.

[Beck] To conclude, Mr Kimche, will the talks continue next week?

[Kimche] I do not know. In my opinion, we now have to go to the Cabinet, to the Inner Cabinet, and the Inner Cabinet will decide if, when, and how to continue. [end recording]

Egypt's Badawi on Progress

TA131011 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Dec 85 p 2

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Text] "I am certain that we have made progress in the negotiations on Tabah and other issues pertaining to Egyptian-Israeli relations, but several issues remain in dispute between the sides," Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, the head of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks, told the *DAVAR* correspondent in summing up 3 days of talks at the "Daniyyel" Hotel in Herzliyya.

Badawi, who will become the Egyptian ambassador to the United Nations in mid-January, said that upon his return to Cairo he would brief President Mubarak and the Egyptian foreign minister about the results of the current round of talks and that the Egyptian Administration would subsequently have to decide on its next move.

Badawi assessed that due to the differences remaining between the sides on the question of Tabah there would have to be additional talks in the future.

The head of the Egyptian delegation said that Egypt insists on its position that the dispute over Tabah be solved through international arbitration. "The moment the Israeli Administration agrees to arbitration, other problems in Israeli-Egyptian relations, including the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv, will be solved," Badawi noted. The Egyptian delegation left on its way back to Cairo last night.

Shamir: 'Many Problems' To Solve

TA121705 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sounded reserved at the end of the talks, and he said that the Tabah issue was only one of the issues between us and the Egyptians discussed in the Herzliyya talks. Mr Shamir pointed out that there are many problems and all must be solved, including the Ra's al-Burqa' murder, about which we have not yet received explanations from the Egyptians. Shamir said this on a tour of western Galilee today.

[Begin Shamir recording] There are many problems. We are speaking about the murder in Ra's al-Burqa'. We have not yet received any answer from the Egyptians; they are not prepared to pay compensation to the families of the victims; and they say they have to wait for the end of the murderer's trial in order to decide about compensation. We see no connection between the trial and the compensation. After all, nobody has denied that people were murdered there. We are awaiting an answer and an explanation. We are also speaking with them about relations, the close relations between Egypt and the PLO. We regard this as a breach of the peace treaty. To this day there is no answer on this issue, and along with all these issues, there is the Tabah problem. [end recording]

W. Bank Figures Want To 'Put Pressure' on 'Arafat

TA121959 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1806 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] A group of public figures from the territories wants to go to Amman to put pressure on Yasir 'Arafat to make his positions more flexible so as to further the possibility of negotiations between Israel and Jordan. The figures intend to meet with the PLO leader at the beginning of next week.

Our correspondent Gil Sadan reports that the figures include Rashad al-Shawwa, Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, Hanna Sanyurah, Fayiz Abu Rahmah, and Zafir al-Masri, who is to head the Nabulus municipality. Some of these figures told our correspondent that they would go only if they receive permission from the authorities. However, security sources told our correspondent that the rule followed by the authorities is not to permit residents of the territories to go abroad in order to hold contacts with hostile elements.

Sanyurah on Occupation, Palestinian Objectives

TA131020 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Dec 85 p 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] Behind him, a painting of ochre thistles with two bright orange flowers trying to emerge; the flowers are overstamped with a black IDF censorship triangle. Beside him, above the silent teleprinter, a map of Palestine in Arabic shows existing Arab villages and the 350-odd settlements uprooted by the 1984 War [as published.

Taken together, the painting and map represent Hanna Sanyurah, editor of the East Jerusalem daily *AL-FAJR*, who was recently named by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as one of the organization's two nominees from the West Bank for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks. Sanyurah lives the Israeli occupation. "There is no 'benign' occupation; military rule is repressive," he says.

Expectations in the territories that the advent of Labour Party rule in Israel would ease conditions "were dashed. We are in a worse condition than under the Begin governments." He stresses that Labour reintroduced administrative detention and deportations.

Sanyurah himself has been arrested a number of times, "but only briefly." He adds that "two of my *(AL-FAJR)* journalists are under administrative detention and three are under town-restriction orders. Another journalist has completely disappeared," he adds.

Conditions in *AL-FAJR*'s offices are pristine, almost ascetic. Sanyurah seems to have no secretary, the dull yellow walls are peeling, the typewriters are ramshackle, and the staff is minuscule. A bunch of tourist chocolate bars ("made in Ramallah") are stacked on one side of the plump editor's desk.

Sanyurah comprehensively explains the Palestinians' failures in the past. "We face the wiliest of antagonists." He adds: But "we haven't given up, and won't, until there is a Palestinian state beside the State of Israel." But there is implied criticism of the pre-1967 Palestinian leadership in his assertion that since 1962 the struggle has been "dominated by realism."

Sanyurah says that a delegation of West Bank and Gaza notables is off on Monday to meet "the chairman" ('Arafat) "to discuss how to tackle the issue of (UN Security Council Resolution) 242."

He would not say what he or the other notables intend to tell 'Arafat, but Sanyurah seems to have grasped the urgency of the moment. The Palestinians and the PLO must somehow respond to the Egyptian-Jordanian and Israeli peace initiatives, "but without (abandoning) Palestinian rights and the demand for self-determination."

The initiative for the forthcoming meeting in Amman was from the notables in the territories, not from 'Arafat, he says. 'Arafat has so far balked at announcing PLO acceptance of 242 or recognition of Israel. Aren't the Palestinians once again missing an opportunity, Sanyurah is asked.

"I believe the Palestinians will make very effort not to be blamed in the future for again missing the boat," he says. "The chairman is trying in every way possible to accommodate the demands being made upon him (by Jordan, Egypt, and the U.S.)."

IDF Liaison Officer Views Security Strip Situation

TA121824 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1530 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Interview with Brigadier General Daniyel Rothschild, commander of the IDF liaison unit in Lebanon, by military correspondent Gay Zohar; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Zohar] Who is currently trying to attack Israel? Perhaps there is a distinction between those who are trying to attack our northern border and those who are trying to attack inside the security strip. Are these Lebanese citizens or Palestinians? Who are they?

[Rothschild] Who is not trying to attack us in southern Lebanon? That should be the question, and the answer is that almost everybody wants to attack the security strip or the territory of the State of Israel. Among those fighting against the State of Israel you will find all the Palestinian organizations, both from 'Arafat's camp and from the camp opposed to 'Arafat. You will find very many organizations, some of them splinter groups, but the common denominator of them all is that they are ruled, supported, and sent by the Syrians, and the motto [preceding word in English] directing their activity is to pass through the security zone and attack inside the State of Israel, to carry out terrorism on the northern border in order to prove that they are still around. The Peace for Galilee War is over and they are continuing to act.

[Zohar] Is there any change in the inhabitants' approach to the new situation, that of the security zone?

[Rothschild] There certainly is a change in the inhabitants' approach; it has undergone several changes over the past 8 months. We must understand that the population of southern Lebanon had lost its faith in the intentions of the IDF and the State of Israel regarding anything involving Lebanon. When we were positioned in Sidon, some people promised them that we would not leave Sidon, and when we were in Tyre some people promised that we would not leave Tyre. I do not know why these promises were made, but at least the population had expectations that we would leave. They saw this process continuing until we left Lebanon altogether, and when we came along and told them that we had an interest in the security zone, that we would not abandon this zone because it is of vital interest to the State of Israel and there is a Cabinet decision on this matter, it was very difficult for us to convince them. I must say that now this stage is over. It is clear to most of the population that we are not going to abandon the zone, and by virtue of this, the population's cooperation with the ASL and with us is rising from day to day and we have simply won the population's confidence and outstanding cooperation.

[Zohar] From an analysis of events to date, do you expect an increase in activity against our northern border, katyushas, and attempts by terrorists to infiltrate?

[Rothschild] I have heard that Nabih Birri, the Amal leader, has declared that if we do not withdraw by the end of the year, he will order his personnel to fire into Israeli territory. They will have to make up their minds. Who will suffer? The inhabitants of southern Lebanon will suffer, and I am not sure that Birri will receive any support, and this is an understatement [preceding word in English]. In my opinion, the inhabitants of southern Lebanon will come out against him in this matter, and it is they who will force anyone who wants to fire katyushas into Israeli territory not to do so.

[Zohar] Can you foresee a situation in which the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] can manage alone in the field?

[Rothschild] That situation appears quite theoretical to me at present because it depends mainly on the enemies of the security zone and of Israel. If we reach a situation where we can sign agreements with the enemies of the security zone, I assume it will be possible to sign an agreement with somebody so that the IDF will not have to be involved in events in Lebanon as a whole, not just in the security zone. However, as long as there are no such agreements, I do not think that anyone would imagine we would withdraw our involvement and our backing to the ASL in southern Lebanon, since we are not doing this because of the pretty faces of the ASL troops but to defend the northern border.

Nabulus Electricity To Be Linked to National Grid

TA122110 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 12 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] An *AL-TALI'AH* correspondent has learned from informed sources in Nabulus that work is currently under way in Nabulus to prepare the necessary infrastructure to link the town's power station and its entire electricity network to the Israeli national grid. A main station is being set up for the transfer of high-tension wires. High-tension "cables" are also being extended from the Al-Tuffah Valley (where this region is connected to the national grid) to the main power station.

These sources affirmed that cable extensions by the Israeli national grid within city limits are being carried out at the municipality's expense. According to an agreement signed by the town's Israeli mayor, (Jabr Hinu), with the said company, the municipality paid $75,000 from its budget to purchase the necessary equipment for the linking operation.

Shamir, Bar-Lev on Charges of W. Bank Land Fraud

TA120721 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Dec 85 p 2

[Report by Joshua Brilliant, Sarah Honig, David Rudge and Arye Rubinstein]

[Excerpt] Migdalim — Vice Premier Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday indirectly accused the Labour Party of using the police to incite against settlement in the administered territories, and against the Likud. He made the accusations to reporters following a ceremony in which Gush Emunim took over this settlement overlooking the Jordan Valley, from a Nahal unit which had established it.

At the ceremony Shamir labelled as "fictitious stories" reports on "so-called corruption and land robbery." "If police have charges, why do they drag out (the investigation)?" Shamir asked. "Day by day they tell stories to journalists... if there is a crime let the jurists prove it and not tell stories about tapping (phones) and investigations they plan to conduct... let them bring things to court."

Shamir did not criticize Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev by name, nor did he name Bar-Lev's Labour Party. But the target of his criticism was clear. Were the police Labour Party police? he was asked.

"I wouldn't say so," Shamir replied, "but there is someone who wants it; anyway certainly not the policemen."

Bar-Lev reacted very matter-of-factly to Shamir's charges yesterday. He noted that "Shamir did not actually say that there was incitement in police leaks against the settlements and against the Likud. He was asked by the press if he thought there was such incitement and he replied that he doesn't know. As an Alignment member and as minister of police I do know that there is no incitement, but what do you expect Shamir to answer when faced with such a leading question?"

But in the Knesset, Bar-Lev yesterday described as "malicious" and "impertinent" accusations by some Likud Knesset Members [MK] that the police investigation of possible lands-sales fraud in Judaea and Samaria is politically motivated.

Replying to motions for the agenda, the minister said that continued attacks of this kind could undermine the public's confidence in the police. Calling the accusations "an unprecedented offensive," Bar-Lev said that whereas the MK's' immunity law protects them against pressure that might be exerted on them by agencies of the executive, today the problem is how to protect those agencies from MK's.

Bar-Lev said he has never hinted to the police that this matter or any other should be investigated. The present police activity on the subject is a direct outgrowth of the investigation that began under the Likud government, he said.

As for Likud charges that the police went easy on the investigation of David Balas (suspected of involvement in the United Kibbutz Movement financial scandal) because here the Labour Party was involved, Bar-Lev said that all complaints received in connection with the affair have been investigated: Not one is still pending. The police have submitted their conclusions to the state-attorney, who will decide if charges should be filed.

New Settlement Inaugurated in West Bank

TA121855 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1806 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Today the cornerstone of the permanent settlement 'Enav was laid near Nabulus. Minister Moshe Arens attended the ceremony. All the speakers in the ceremony bitterly rejected what they called the attack against settlement in the territories being conducted as a result of the land scandal affair.

Senior Level Contacts Resumed With Hassan Advisers

TA121100 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Dec 85 p 1

["Exclusive" report from France by Yo'av Toqer]

[Text] Paris — There have recently been contacts at the medium and senior levels between Israeli figures and the Moroccan king's closest advisers in Paris. According to reports, which have not been confirmed either by the Israeli or Moroccan side, the contacts are being held under the guidance and instructions of King Hassan, on the one hand, and Prime Minister Shim'on

Peres, on the other. At the same time, rumors originating with European observers point to an Israeli-Moroccan attempt (with France's encouragement) to hold a meeting between the king and Peres in the near future.

It seems that the contacts are held in a bid to "consolidate" King Hassan's initiative for mediation. Some of the king's closest advisers were also present in a widely attended reception held 2 days ago at the Paris residence of David 'Amar, the president of the organization of Moroccan Jews.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Gives State of Nation Speech

PM121541 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 2 Dec 85 p 12

["Text" of President Chadli Bendjedid's state of the nation speech to the National People's Assembly on 1 December: "Working People Are Free and Creative People"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Dear brother members of the National People's Assembly,

We are meeting today, as we do each year in accordance with the Constitution, to review the state of the nation together. This is a sound tradition that enables us to discuss questions of interest to the nation and the problems of concern to the citizens.

This year is characterized by the launching of the second 5-year plan. It may be appropriate to take this opportunity to discuss, however briefly, the international economic situation to obtain an accurate picture of the results achieved by our country in the course of this year and to define what should be undertaken for the future. Indeed, as everybody knows, the world economic crisis has exported its harmful effects to the Third World countries, of which we are one. This situation has been produced by the injustice of the system governing international economic and financial relations. The Third World countries' foreign debt will shortly reach $1 trillion, whereas development aid to these same countries is falling at the same time as the influx of net capital to the developing countries is being reduced.

In this difficult context and despite the drop in the price of oil and the manipulation of the world oil market, Algeria has succeeded in continuing its economic development and maintaining its rate, and giving a practical response to the citizens' needs in accordance with the directions and guidelines laid down by the fifth congress.

This year has seen the achievement of an overall balance in our economy thanks to the sustained stringency in the running of the national economy and the overall mobilization of our own capabilities, in accordance with the principle of "self-reliance." We have maintained the level of our exports and the national market has undergone a considerable integration.

Tribute to the Workers

We have rationalized our import planning; the dependency of our economy has dropped this year. It is not more than 25 percent whereas it was 37 percent in 1979; and we also succeeded in reducing the volume of our foreign debts and have achieved better control over our financial reserves. All these results are the fruit of improvements made in running our economy and can be attributed to the workers' efforts to increase production and productivity.

National production has increased by 7 percent; in the industrial sphere the rate of increase has been maintained thanks to the progress made in labor productivity and the expansion and control of our production capabilities. Similarly this year has seen increased production in the agricultural sector.

Despite the pressure of the world economic crisis we have continued our efforts by devoting 43 percent of national production to investment, which reached a volume of around 100 billion dinars in the public sector; agriculture, water resources, and production sectors have pride of place in this.

In keeping with the guidelines of the 5-year plan and in accordance with the principle of mobilizing all national capabilities, the private sector is no longer on the fringes of society and is now contributing to development in the framework of the plan with increased efficiency, which requires greater discipline and a stronger commitment to national objectives.

In the social sphere, more than 160,000 jobs have been created in 1 year thanks to the improvement in our training capabilities; the proportion of skilled labor continues to increase, and this will make it possible to further increase the efficiency of our economy.

In the sphere of employment, disparities between the wages in various sectors have been reduced. The social protection of workers has been extended and improved in general.

There has been an improvement in social and educational provision to meet the growing needs in this sphere; this year has seen considerable progress in the sphere of education and teaching, just as it has seen important achievements in the health and culture sphere.

All the results obtained in all these spheres can be attributed to the praiseworthy effort of all the workers, to whom I pay tribute. They are also the result of the equitable distribution of effort, sacrifice, and the fruits of development.

Brother members of the National People's Assembly, this session of the assembly is being held at a time when the country is engaged in the operation to enrich the National Charter, which is of great importance.

It expresses the dynamism of our people and our revolution and shows the importance we attach to the objectives of the aspirations of our nation during its long historic march.

The National Charter is the result of efforts to realize our people's profound aspirations expressed by the national movement and for which thousands of the fatherland's children sacrificed themselves.

Our task today is to find the ways and means of fulfilling them,taking account of the great changes in our society and the world.

The aim is to seek the best ways of taking up the task of national building.

This enables us to stop and review which of the National Charter's provisions have been implemented and to draw conclusions

from this; and to deal with the shortcomings that have appeared in interpretation and practice.

The enrichment operation is a new start for our revolution, and for our efforts in building and progress.

It aims to achieve more effective clarification, and to find solutions to the problems raised by the country's development, and to suggest more rigorous methods for our action. It is intended to put forward the necessary means of tackling the problems of the future. Finally, it is intended to improve the achievements of our struggle, and to consolidate independence, and national sovereignty.

Dialogue and Understanding

Dear brothers, basing its foreign policy on the profound sources of the ideals that inspired and guided its national liberation war, Algeria is continuing in practice its attachment to the fight for freedom, justice, and dignity throughout the world.

The fact that we are part of the Arab world and the African Continent means that we are actively involved in the struggle launched by the Arab and African peoples for their rights to independence, sovereignty, and development.

Our solidarity with the Third World peoples prompts us to step up our efforts and unify our positions in the struggle to establish a new international economic order and the emergence of an age of peace characterized by justice and development.

This is the context for my visits to Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, and Senegal, which made it possible to give new impetus to our relations and to South-South cooperation.

It was with the conviction of the importance of dialogue and understanding for the establishment of peace in the world and the establishment of fruitful and sincere international cooperation that I visited the United States, just as my visit to Spain demonstrated the importance we attach to the principles of good neighborly relations, security, and cooperation in the Mediterranean Basin, with respect for mutual interests.

During all these visits Algeria reaffirmed its principled positions on just causes in the world and its support for struggling peoples.

Arab Nation: Mutual Respect and Noninterference in Internal Affairs

Dear brothers, the Arab nation is still experiencing a very difficult period in which rivalries are increasing, disagreements growing more acute, and conflicts are deteriorating, while the Zionist enemy, with the support of imperialist circles, is continuing its aggression against the Arab nation, violating the sovereignty of its states and threatening the security of its peoples.

Faced with this bitter trial the only salvation lies in closing ranks in the Arab nation, defining common objectives, and setting rivalry aside.

We think it is possible to reverse the situation by focusing our efforts on the sacred cause and on defending the Arab nation's higher interests, because what unites brothers is more important than what divides them. We must concentrate on what is essential and fundamental for solidarity and cooperation.

To achieve that, our relations must have sound bases; it is imperative for mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs to be established and to avoid unrealistic actions, and it is much more essential to defind unit of action with specific objectives and a sincere will.

This unity of action must be focused on the Palestinian cause, because this is the root of the Middle East problem. We must respect the independent Palestinian political identity, support cohesion around the PLO in the ranks of the resistance, and boost its international support. In our view this is the way to shoulder the responsibilities imposed on us by the Arab nation's united destiny.

Algeria for its part will work to this end and support all initiatives in this direction.

At all events we will always stand by the Palestinian people until the restoration of their rights, the establishment of their independent state, and the liberation of the occupied Arab territories.

Maghreb Unity, A Grand Design

Dear brothers, Maghreb unity is an idea in which Algeria has believed for a very long time, which it has defended and proclaimed in different circumstances, and all the efforts we are now making in the framework of the policy of fraternity, harmony, positive good-neighborly relations, and cooperation are aimed at achieving this noble objective to which the peoples of the region aspire, and the results we have achieved in this sphere are the foundations of the unity we are seeking.

The unity we are seeking will be based on conviction and sincere and responsible agreement — a unity based on the interests of the peoples, on constructive consultation and a sincere will and not on threats and force.

Unity for us is a grand design and a historical and noble task. For this viewpoint the means used must be the expression of this ideal.

It is our belief in the Maghreb ideal that has prompted us to work with determination to bring about a rapprochement between the Moroccan and West Saharan peoples to enable them to find a just solution to the conflict that has existed between them for 10 years and which is a constant source of anxiety and an obstacle to cooperation among all the countries in the region.

Our position on this conflict is clear, it is based on our revolution's principles and is in accordance with the right of peoples to self-determination and independence; we still attach importance to any peace agreement whic respects this right.

We will make every effort to achieve this, as we have done in the past.

Thus the idea of a Maghreb summit was regarded as positive,and we supported it with a view to bringing about a rapproachment between the peoples of Morocco and the Western Sahara.

However, these efforts have been met with intransigence and the rejection of dialogue.

We are convinced that the only way to guarantee peace and fulfillour peoples' hopes remains that of dialogue. However, the opposite course is being followed at present, with a policy of rushing blindly on, shilly-shallying, and resorting to the military option.

While reaffirming our solidarity with the West Saharan people's just cause, I would like to confirm that Algeria is still prepared to work for a peaceful political solution by implementing the peace plan initiated by the OAU and adopted by the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations and in accordance with the requirements for stability in our region and with a view to the vital unity among our peoples.

Priority to Strengthening South-South Cooperation

Dear brothers, Algeria has always acted within the framework of African solidarity for the total liberation of our continent and the economic promotion of its peoples, and it is in this sense that it feels legitimately concerned by all the major problems and crises still affecting the continent.

In this connection we supported the OAU's efforts to bring about reconciliation in Chad in the framework of safeguarding that country's national unity and territorial integrity.

Similarly, Algeria continues to support the just cause of the peoples of southern Africa fighting for independence and the elimination of the apartheid regime. In this context the heroic struggle of the South African and Namibian peoples under the leadership of the ANC and SWAPO arouses our admiration and our solidarity and calls for our support, which also goes to the Frontline States, which are resisting the Pretoria regime's hegemonistic and destabilizing machinations.

It is time for the international community to shoulder its responsibilities, and pledge to end apartheid and guarantee real independence for Namibia.

Regarding the economic problems facing the continent, Algeria has taken initiatives and launched practical actions in the OAU framework just as it has set aside a large part of its material and financial resources to face these problems and take up the complex challenges of this economic crisis.

Similarly, through the joint commissions that bind it to many African countries, Algeria has striven to develop sincere and mutually advantageous cooperation.

It has shown that our continent has more need than ever for peace and stability to concentrate its efforts on the economic and social promotion of its peoples.

In a broader context we think that our effective contribution to the establishment of a new international economic order forces us to give priority to strengthening and expanding South-South cooperation in all spheres.

Dear brothers, our actions at the international level are aimed at implementing the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement for the establishment of peace in a climate of justice and equality among nations and characterized by respect for national sovereignty, and peoples' rights to choose their political, social, and economic systems.

Foreign Minister Receives ANC Leader Tambo

LD121916 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The development of the South African people's struggle against apartheid as well as the global political situation in southern Africa were the main two topics of the talks this morning in Algiers between the Algerian foreign minister, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, and the ANC president, Oliver Tambo. Sadek Zouaten, from the party's external relations department was also present.

Mr Tambo has been in Algiers since yesterday to discuss the development of the situation in southern Africa with Algerian officials .

Briefs

Cooperation With Mauritania — Nouakchott, 7/12/85 (APS) — Works of the 7th session of the Algero-Mauritanian Joint Commission for the Economic, Technical, Financial, Cultural and Scientific Cooperation ended on Thursday in Nouakchott. This session enabled to strike the balance of the Algero-Mauritanian cooperation and to define prospects of developments notably in fields of energy, fisheries, telecommunications, commercial exchanges, culture, information, as well as secondary and higher teaching. [Text] */Algiers APS in English 1004 GMT 7 Dec 85 LD/*

Departing Spanish, Tunisian Envoys — President Chadli Bendjedid today received the ambassador of Spain to Algiers, who was making a farewell visit at the end of his mission to Algeria. The head of state also received the ambassador of Tunisia, who is also ending his mission to our country. [Text] */Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 10 Dec 85 LD/*

LIBYA

Egyptian Aid to Chad Criticized

LD130046 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, announced that Egypt has sent technical teams to Ndjamena.

The JANA political editor described the Egyptian step as interference in the domestic affairs of Chad that will compel the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to send technical teams in turn to strengthen the Transitional National Union Government in Chad.

He pointed out that Libya will not permit any imbalance at the expense of the legitimate government in Chad. Any interference in Chadian affairs will make Libya feel compelled to intervene.

The editor warned the Egytpian regime and any other country against the folly of interfering in the domestic affairs of a state that shares has no borders with them. In the event of this taking place, he said, it will create a situation in which Libya will not be able to stand by with its arms folded.

JANA Notes U.S. To Supply Tanks to Egypt
LD121607 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT
12 Dec 85

[Text] Washington, Rabi Al Awal 28, Dec 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — U.S. Administration is to supply the ruling regime in Egypt with 36 (60 M type) tanks.

This suspicion-arising agreement with the Egyptian regime will be concluded following the approval of U.S. Congress within 30 days.

Mention should be made that U.S. Administration had earlier this year supplied the Egyptian regime with 94 tanks of the same type.

Jordanian Workers Union Cables Al-Qadhdhafi
LD121352 Tripoli JANA in English 0828 GMT
12 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Awal 28, Dec.12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The General Secretariat of Jordan's Workers Union (J.W.U) confirmed that the puppet Egyptian regime, by building up its troops on the imaginary borders with Jamahiriya, is carrying out the orders of its imperialist masters to threaten the Libyan Arab people because of its stances in the struggle against U.S. imperialism and its hostile schemes against the Arab nation.

In the cable it sent to the leader of the revolution: 'All the acts Egyptian regime commits are closely linked with the Camp David alliance. The recent military build up on the borders of Jamahiriya are nothing but a proof of this regime insistance to carry out U.S. imperialism's orders which it was unable to carry out itself'.

The General Secretariat of (JWU) confirmed its support and backing to the Libyan Arab people. It confirmed its solidarity with its steadfastness against imperialism and reaction.

PFLP's Habash Condemns Military Massing Along Border
LD121537 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT
12 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Al Awal 28, Dec 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- George Habash, secretary of the Popular Front for theLiberation of Palestine (P.F.L.P.) has condemned the militarydeployment of troops on the eastern frontier of Libya. In his telegram to the leader of the revolution, Habash stresses that P.F.L.P. stands by the Libyan Arab people in its countering all schemes and conspiracies that aim at wrecking its massive civilized achievements.

MAURITANIA

President Reportedly Says Ould Dada May Return
AB122240 Lome Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Former Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Dada, who was overthrown by a military coup in 1978, is free to return to Nouakchott if he wishes. This is an appeal [un appel] made to him by Maaouiya Sid 'Ahmed Ould Taya. In an interview with the Moroccan daily *L'OPINION*, the Mauritanian head of st[illegible] disclosed that Ould Dada was on the list [illegible] following his coming to power through a palace coup exactly a year ago in Nouakchott.

Outlines 1985-88 Recovery Program
AB121615 Paris AFP in French 1450 GMT
12 Dec 85

[Text] Nouakchott, 12 Dec (AFP) — Colonel Maaouiya Sid 'Ahmed Ould Taya, the Mauritanian head of state, on Thursday gave the major outline of the 1985-88 recovery program adopted by Mauritania to redress its economy, which has been seriously hit by drought.

In a lengthy state of the nation speech made on the occasion of the first anniversary of the coup d'etat that brought him to power on 12 December 1984, the head of state recalled the three major objectives of the program: the maintenance of a real growth rate of 4 percent (demographic growth rate is 2.7 percent), the balancing of the country's budget by 1986, and the reduction of the current balance of payments deficit from 26 percent of the gross domestic product in 1984 to less than 1 percent in 1988.

To support this redress, Col Ould Taya stressed Mauritania counts particularly on the fishing industry, agriculture, and the private sector. The fishing industry, he said, "is the sector of hope for the economy," in a country whose coast is among the world's most abundant with fish.

More than 600,000 tons of fish can be caught annually in Mauritanian waters without the risk of overexploitation. About a quarter of the fishing trawlers operating in the territorial waters are Mauritanian.

In the agricultural field, the head of state emphasized that irrigated farming was the "only answer to the continued desert encroachment the country is faced with." Irrigated farming is expected to constitute 35 percent of the total agricultural production in 1988.

In addition, Col Ould Taya underlined the effectiveness of the emergency aid from friendly countries which has made it possible to reduce a deficit estimated at 142,000 tons for the supply needs of the market, and more than 81,000 tons for free distribution to disaster victims.

The return of rainfall this year to a major part of the Sahel had made it possible for us to expect a good 1985-1986 farming season, the head of state observed. Finally, the government would like to revitalize the third element of the recovery program, that is the private sector, especially the small- and medium-scale enterprises, and construction.

This entire economic program, the head of state stated in conclusion, has been accepted by Mauritania's financiers.

Leaves for France-Africa Summit
AB121435 Paris AFP French 1342 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Nouakchott, 12 Dec (AFP) — Mauritanian head of state Colonel Maaouiya Sid 'Ahmed Ould Taya left Nouakchott late this morning for Paris to participate in the France-Africa summit meeting that began yesterday.

The Mauritanian head of state was detained in Nouakchott by the festivities marking the first anniversary of his accession to power. He was represented at the opening session of the summit by his minister of foreign affairs, Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih.

Five Jailed for 1981 Coup Attempt Pardoned
AB121016 Paris AFP in English
1000 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Nouakchott, Dec 12 (AFP) — Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sidi 'Ahmed Taya has pardoned five people jailed in 1981 for trying to overthrow his predecessor, in an amnesty marking the first anniversary of his own seizure of power, interior minister Lieutenant-Colonel Gabriel Cimper said here today.

Lt Col Cimper said the pardon was aimed at achieving national reconciliation following an earlier amnesty at the beginning of this year and a decision to restore confiscated property to former politica prisoners.

The five pardoned today are Ismail Ould Mohamedou, Yaghoub Ould (?Tafagha) el Alem, Ibrahim Ould Yeli, Ibrahima Fall Ould Aidel, and Dah Ould Mohamed Abeid. They took part in an attack on Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital, in March 1981 with the aim of overthrowing President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydalla.

President Haydalla, who was ousted a year ago while he was out of the country for the Franco-African summit in Burundi, blamed neighbouring Morocco for organizing the attack at the time.

General Amnesty for Security Offenders
LD121230 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Anna Amadou Babaly, interior minister and member of the CMSN, made a statement tonight in which he declared a general amnesty for those convicted of violations of the state's internal or external security. The following is a translation of that statement:

According to a decree issued this morning the chairman of the CMSN and head of state grants on the occasion of the first anniversary of the 12 December 1984 movement a general amnesty for those convicted of violations of the state's internal and external security.

Those benefiting from this pardon are: (Isma'il Ould Mohamed Dou), (Ya'qub Ould Ogha al-Ghali), (Ibrahim Mulla 'Ali), (Ibrahim Balou al-Idalha), and (Aldah Ould Mohamed al-Oubeid).

Agreement Signed With FRG on Debt Repayment
LD111319 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 10 Dec 85

[Text] This morning Mohamed Salem Ould Lakhal, minister of finance and economy, and the ambassador of West Germany in Nouakchott signed the protocol of an agreement according to which the government of Bonn will postpone the repayment of debts due by our country. In a speech on the occasion, the minister said: I take this opportunity to express our satisfaction with the nature of Mauritanian-German cooperation. He then expressed the belief that the agreement, which falls within the context of the fruitful cooperation between the two countries, will consolidate this cooperation and enable our country to begin the first year of the rescheduling program easily. As to his excellency the German ambassador, he confirmed that the agreement signed today includes the extention of the repayment period on the interest on the debt and the debts gauranteed by the Mauritanian Government and banks. He confirmed that his country's government wants to confirm, through this extension, its desire to back the efforts of our national leaders to move the country out of its economic predicament.

MOROCCO

Romanian Minister Visits Development Projects
LD121424 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Tetuan, Dec 12. (MAP) — Romanian Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Vasile Bulucea arrived here Wednesday morning as part of a tour in a number of Moroccan northern towns.

The Romanian minister was accompanied during his visit to Tetuan by Romanian Ambassador to Rabat, Romanian director of the Ports Construction Department and representative of the "Feraoun" touristic project and the cabinet director of the Moroccan Ministry of Equipment.

They were welcomed by Tetuan Governor Mohamed Terrab who highlighted the interest of the Tetuan coastal regions and underlined the authorities' decision to equip the port installations of M'diq and to create a recreation port in Ristinga-Smir with a view to offering an alternative to the Moroccan nationals returning home during the July and August period via Sebta and thus avoiding them the fatigues of the Sebta overcrowdedness.

The Tetuan governor also underscored that the construction of the Ristinga-Smir port will give a new impetus to the touristic activities in the region. He also asked Vasile Bulucea to dispatch a Romanian commission to Morocco to study the project of creating port on the Tetuan coastal line stretching from the "Lour" River to Sebta in order to promote fishing activities in the region.

The Romanian minister of transportation and telecommunications expressed his country's readiness to contribute to the development of the Tetuan region. He also indicated that his visit has been undertaken in conformity to the wish of president Ceausescu and the Romanian Government with a view to working out the measures to be undertaken before the launching of these projects.

It is to be recalled that Vasile Bulucea also visited the Larache port on Wednesday where he was apprised by the Larache governor with the progress of the works of reinforcing the port's main jetty as well as the works of maintenance of the port's docks.

The tour undertaken by Vasile includes the towns of Nador, Al Hoceima, Tangiers, M'diq, Larache, and Tetuan.

Briefs

Malaysian Envoy Presents Credentials — Rabat, 11 Dec (MAP) — Moroccan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Cherkaoui has received in Rabat the nonresident ambassador of Malaysia to Morocco, Tan Sri Lim Taik Choon, who presented him with a copy of his credentials as Malaysia's nonresident ambassador to Morocco. [Summary]*[Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 11 Dec 85 LD]*

SUDAN

New Influx of Ethiopian Refugees Reported

JN121225 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1040 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Dec (SUNA) — The last few days have witnessed a new influx of Ethiopian refugees over the border into Sudan. More than 200,000 Ethiopian refugees have crossed the western borders in huge numbers toward the area of (Wad Kuli), located within (Al-Gadarif) city. Eastern Region Military Governor Staff Major General Muhammad al-Mahdi 'Ali 'Uthman told the newspaper *AL-SAHAFAH* issued today that another camp that had been equipped to receive 5,000 refugees in the area of Wad Sherifai near the city of Kassala also did not escape the influx of a huge number of Ethiopian refugees. The number of refugees in this camp alone totals 120,000. The military governor explained that the number of refugees continues to increase despite the arrival of this latest huge number and that more groups are currently making their way across the Ethiopian borders toward Sudan. Health services in the Eastern Region have been seriously affected by this influx of refugees. The military governor told *AL-SAHAFAH* that due to the new influx of refugees from Ethiopia, the region is witnessing a spread of intestinal disease, a fever of unknown origin, and typhoid. Moreover, the number of flies in Port Sudan has increased dramatically, exposing many citizens to eye disease. The military governor also complained of a great shortage of some goods and vital commodities in his region such as sugar and flour due to this situation. He appealed to the authorities on the national level to assist the region and quickly send medicine and vital commodities in order to deal with the situation.

'Abdallah Receives Somali Military Delegation

JN121447 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT
12 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Dec (SUNA) — Major General 'Uthman 'Abdallah, member of the Transitional Military Council and defense minister, has received a message from Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Samatar, Somali first vice president and minister of defense, on the Somali Defense Ministry's desire to benefit from Sudanese military experience. This came when his excellency today received Brigadier General Ali Simail, director of the Somali military academy, who is now in the country with a Somali military delegation on a visit to the Sudanese Higher Military Academy.

Interior Minister on Cooperation With Gulf Countries

GF121948 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1730 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Dec (SUNA) — Popice Lieutenant General 'Abbas Madani, minister of interior, has stated that there is firm cooperation between the Sudan and the Gulf countries. He said that during his recent visit to the Gulf countries, he discussed the possibility of bolstering this security cooperation between the Sudan and these countries. He added that the channels of contact were blocked between the two sides after the dissolution of the Interior Ministry in 1979.

In a press statement he made today, he said that during his visit to the Gulf countries he also discussed the general framework of security cooperation and the possibility of supporting the Sudan, particularly in the field of expertise, training, transportation, and communications. As for the private security companies which function in the field of providing security services, his excellency said this subject was referred by the national security council to the technical committee, which is affiliated with the council, to prepare the legal studies that will set the laws for such activities.

Court Proceedings in Falasha Case Continue
JN121117 Khartoum SUNA in English
0926 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 12 (SUNA) — The 21st prosecution witness in the case of the ferrying of Ethiopian Jews (Falasha) to Israel said that 862 Jews residing in Wad Al-Hulw camp had escaped from the [word indistinct] without informing the camp officials.

Testifying before the court session held here today to try the accused in the transportation of the Falasha to Israel Wad Al-Hulw are refugees housing director (?'Abd al-Rahim) Yusuf Ahmad said that their observation for Falashas activities had unveiled the existence of an organization transporting Falashas. [sentence as received]

Ahmad presented documents including letters written by him to the security bodies to monitor the Falasha transportation phenomena.

Testifying before the court session held here today (Algadarif) area security director Colonel Mahjub Husayn Ahmad explained that when he assumed his office as a director for security in (Algadarif) he started taking measures to lessen Falashas transportation.

Ahmad presented a letter he wrote to the liquidated state security headquarters displaying the existence of a ring of Ethiopians who transport Falashas to Israel and said that they were arrested.

The second document presented by Ahmad is a cable from the state security headquarters to (Algadarif) security unit explaining that the detained Ethiopians are released and ordering (Algadarif) security unit to avert from arresting any member of the United Nations (UN) refugees office.

The defence advocate had on the onset of the session cross examined 20th prosecution witness former Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman who affirmed that Sudan as an Arab country is in a state of a declared war against Israel, indicating that no application was presented to the Foreign Ministry to permit the landing of planes to airlift Falashas to Israel.

Foreign Ministry, state security organ, and military intelligence are the only bodies that can forbid the landing of any non-commercial plane in the country 'Uthman said.

Questioned by the court 'Uthman explained that ousted Vice President 'Umar al-Tayyib, the state security head, categorically denied before him Falashas transportation to Israel via Sudan.

The court will resume session next Saturday to continue hearing testimonies.

Briefs

Oil Imports—Khartoum, Dec 6 (SUNA) — The Central Bank of Sudan has earmarked 10 million pounds for purchasing 45,000 tons of crude oil, a source at the bank said. The consignment which will be imported by a Swiss company is due here this month. The source said the current oil reserve in Port Sudan amounts to 100,000 tons in addition to 50,000 tons donated by Libya and due to be delivered next month. The source said those quantities secure the country's consumption until the end of next january. The source said the rest of the Libyan donated oil which is [word indistinct] tons would be delivered during February. It is to be recalled that the Libyan Government has donated Sudan some 300 thousand tons of oil that began arriving to Port Sudan last September. [Text]*/Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 6 Dec 85 JN/*

Trade With Arab Countries — Khartoum, Rabi Awal/30 Dec. 13 (SUNA) Sudan's commercial ties with Arab states would be tremendously expanded over the coming three months, particularly with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, an authoritative source at the Ministry of Commerce said. He said the joint trade committees with those countries would meet to consider promotion of commercial ties and renew protocols. He said commercial exchange with Arab states is growing rapidly and that Sudan's exports to Arab states had exceeded one third of Sudan's total exports in the last four years. He said Arab states had provided more than one fourth of Sudan's imports for the same period. Sudan's exports to Arab states include sorghum meat, cattle, sesame, melon seeds, hides, vegetables and fruits and others. Sudan's imports from those countries include petroleum and its byproducts, chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides and a lot of industrial goods. [Text]*/Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GMT 13 Dec 85 JN/*

Outgoing Indian Ambassador — Khartoum, 9 Dec (SUNA) — Prime Minister Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah received the Indian ambassador in Khartoum today at the end of his term in office in Sudan. [Excerpt]*/Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1716 GMT 9 Dec 85 JN/*

TUNISIA

'First Ever' USSR-Tunisian Committee Meeting To Be Held
LD131037 Kuwait KUNA in English 0946 GMT
13 Dec 85

[Text] Tunis, Dec 13 (KUNA) — The first ever Tunisian-Soviet joint committee meeting will be held in the Tunisian capital at the beginning of 1986, Tunisian Foreign Ministry sources said here Friday.

The joint committee meeting will discuss the elaboration of cooperation in the fields of economics, finance and education.

The committee was formed during the visit to Moscow last March by the Tunisian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Charge of International Cooperation Ahmed bin Arfah.

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario 'Foreign Minister' Discusses War Strategy

LD121147 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Text] As you know, the Sixth Congress of the Polisario Front has just ended in the liberated territories with a decision to keep the same team of leaders, and with the adoption of an action program corresponding to the aspirations and will of the Saharan people. This program represents a decisive turning point after a review of its strategy, regarded as a positive strategy in the diplomatic, military and socioeconomic sense. Mr Ibrahim Hakim, member of the Polisario Front Political Bureau and foreign minister, confirms this in our interview:

[Begin recording] [Hakim] The Sixth Conrgess of the Polisario Front is regarded primarily as a challenge to the maneuvers the King of Morocco is in the process of making, which are aimed at exterminating the Saharan people. Let me explain: The king of Morocco, after the distress and the battering suffered daily by his Army, has brought into play a new maneuver that consists of building up those notorious defense cordons, and he is trying to achieve two things: first, a military situaton, which he wants to change in his favor, and then to demoralize our people.

On the military level, it is a fact known to everyone that the policy of defense cordons is a failure, because they have totally failed to stop the war. On the contrary, as I said the other day on the radio — on your radio station — it represents an additional burden that is impossible for Morocco to shoulder. As far as the second objective is concerned, that is to say the demoralization of our people, the Saharan people have shown, by this congress, first, thier ability to organize themselves, their determination, and above all the fact that they are united, and that they are ready to confront any situation, including the situation characterized by an act of genocide being carried out by the Moroccan Army of aggression.

If, for example, you look at the number of delegates who took part — more than 1,400 — the discipline with which these delegates took part, their enthusiasm, the will that characterized the outcome of this congress, and also its action program which was approved after the proceedings, you can see that our people are ready to take up the challenge and thwart the maneuvers the Rabat aggressor regime is in the process of carrying out to demoralize our people or to boost the morale of its Army, which, in reality, is in distress.

[Unidentified interviewer] How is this decisive turning point seenon the military level?

[Hakim] Well, as you know, the strategy of the enemy army so far has consisted in leading our army into a positional war, and that is the objective of the defense cordons. Well, since the sixth congress, we have decided that we must make the nature of the war evolve from tactical and strategic viewpoints, and consequently we are going to thwart the maneuver, the objective of the enemy army that wants to impose a positional war on us . On the contrary, we are going to impose on the enemy a war of attrition that will result not only in the defeat of that Army in the Sahara, but which, if Hassan II does not withdraw from the war, will result in the ruin of Morocco on the economic level, on the social level, and will result in the downfall of the Alawi monarchy.

[Interviewer] And how is this decisive turning point reflected on the diplomatic level?

[Hakim] Well, on the diplomatic level, of course, our congress represents a decisive turning-point in the sense that it was held at a time when the Moroccan regime — or at least Moroccan expansionism — faces international condemnation both in Africa and in other continents, both on the bilateral and multilateral level, for example at the level of international organizations such as the United Nations, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement. You will understand that this is a stage characterized by a situation that is quite special from the point of view of the diplomatic success of the Saharan people, of the struggle of the Saharan race. [end recording]

ETHIOPIA

WPE Delegation Returns from East European Tour

EA111227 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Comrade Wubshet Dese has stated that useful experience was gained by the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee delegation, which he led, during its tour of four socialist countries and the exchange of views with comrades on the party executives of those countries. The WPE Central Committee member and secretary, Comrade Wubshet Dese, was speaking at Bole International Airport on arrival from a tour of Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. Comrade Wubshet said that comrades on the party executives of those countries have great regard and love for the Ethiopian revolution. Comrade Wubshet pointed out that the delegations exchange of experience centered on party activity and administration. He noted that the delegation was able to gain the necessary experience as a result of frank and useful discussions.

Comrade Wubshet said that as well as gaining experience, the delegation gave a detailed briefing on the objective reality in our country to the party executive comrades of those countries.

The WPE Central Committee Delegation was welcomed on arrival by Comrade Tesfaye Tadese, WPE Central Committee member and chief editor of *SERTO ADER* [*THE WORKER*] and by ambassadors of the countries visited.

KENYA

Moi Comments on Desire for Peace in Uganda

EA121427 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0858 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Speech by President Daniel arap Moi on Kenya's independence anniversary at the Nyayo stadium in Nairobi — live]

[Excerpt] Regionally, we have played our part in strengthening our trade and other forms of regional cooperation. Kenyans would like to assure the world that we shall continue to our utmost towards improving the world we live in.

The deteriorating situation in South Africa continues to cause us much concern. It is indeed saddening that even after many resolutions that have been made by the international community to dismantle apartheid, the racist Government of South Africa has continued to waste away the lives of its people. The recent turn of events go to prove to the entire world that the racist regime understands no other language than violence. If violence and loss of life will liberate South Africa as it has done here in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa, then let us show the South African racists that we shall not turn back until we get the just government of men in that part of Africa. Kenyans wish their brothers and sisters who continue to be oppressed by the racists in South Africa to know that they have our unflinching support in their just struggle.

Kenya is committed to peace throughout the world. We are also committed to the spirit of good-neighborliness and to the unity and prosperity of East Africa. Kenyans believe that the war in Uganda cannot bring victory or glory to any of the warring parties. Indeed the damage and insecurity which has bled Uganda for nearly 20 years, has only succeeded in creating despair, excessive suffering and irreparable damabe which has shaken the very fabric of society. As a result of this prolonged instability, many Ugandans have left their homeland in search of peaceful life in other countries.

This state of affairs cannot obviously continue without jeopardizing the peace and development of all the neighboring countries who are made to provide an alternative home to the displaced persons. It is therefore perfectly clear that, we, here in Kenya and all other countries have a stake in seeing a peaceful Uganda. It is for these reasons that we have gone out of our way during the past few months to provide facilities for the warring parties to bring peace to Uganda.

I wish to reiterate today that, in the final analysis, it is only Ugandans themselves who can guarantee their own peace. It is therefore the ardent hope of all Kenyans and indeed all peace-loving peoples of the world that those who are fighting in Uganda and those who are negotiating for peace in Nairobi will see the need to give their people the gift of peace during this Christmas season. [Applause]

NRM Administration To Be 'Dissolved' After Accord

EA121700 Nairobi KNA in English 1600 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The leader of the National Resistance Movement [NRM], Mr Yoweri Museveni, has announced this evening that as soon as the Uganda peace agreement is signed followed by appropriate transfer formalities to the agreed national government, the interim administration set up by the NRM will be dissolved.

Uganda's Okello Arrives in Nairobi

EA131005 Nairobi KNA in English 0900 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Nairobi, Dec 13 — The Ugandan head of state, H.E. General Tito Okello, who is also the chairman of the country's Military Council arrived in Nairobi this morning shortly after 0930 for the signing of Uganda's peace agreement, with the National Resistance Movement.

He was met on arrival at the airport by the vice president and minister for home affairs, Mr Mwali Kibaki; the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale; the leader of the Ugandan side to the peace talks, Mr Paul Ssemogerere; and the rest of the members of Uganda Government delegation to the peace talks.

Gen Okello was accompanied by Honorable Professor Kyesimira, who is the minister of planning and economic development; Captain L. Kavyesyesa, Kabala, member of the Military Council and Lt Col Odwa.

The other members of the Ugandan delegation to the peace talks present at the airport included Brigadier F. Okecho, member of the Military Council; honorable Olara Otunnu, foreign minister; Honorable Bob Kitariko, minister of public service and cabinet affairs; honorable Dent Ochaya Lakidi, minister of local government; Uganda's acting high commissioner, Mr Phillip Adonga and other officials.

Arrival Remarks

EA131133 Dakar PANA in English 1020 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Kampala, 13 Dec (UNA/PANA) — Uganda's head of state, General Tito Okello arrived in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi this morning to sign an agreement with the National Resistance Army, NRA, if it accepts the Uganda Government proposals on the few remaining outstanding issues. The issues yet to be resolved concern details of building a new national army, the establishment of a joint implementation committee, the monitoring observer force and the proposal that political parties which participated in the 1980 general elections should be represented on the Military Council.

When he met elders in and around Kampala to seek their advice that he left for Nairobi General Tito Okello said he felt it would be a mistake to fly to Nairobi to sign the agreement without meeting the elders whom he added, knew very well what Museveni had done in western Uganda. Gen Tito Okello however reiterated that if an agreement is not signed it would be due to failure to resolve the remaining few issues. The general said signing the agreement before resolving outstanding issues would be like a person tying a rope around his neck.

Accompanied by Uganda's minister for economic development, Prof Kyesimra and Capt Kalyesibula Kabale, member of the Military Council, Gen Okello was met at Jomo Kenyatta airport, by Kenya's vice-president, Mr Mwai Kibaki.

UGANDA

NRA Claims Government Troops in Masaka Surrender

EA120617 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Kampala: The largest rebel group in Uganda, the NRA [National Resistance Army] has claimed that the government troops at the Masaka military barracks, 136 km southwest of the capital, Kampala, have surrendered to NRA fighters.

The Masaka government military barracks are said to have been under siege since the town of Masaka was captured by NRA fighters in early September this year.

So far no details have been issued on the Uganda peace talks which have been in progress in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, since August this year.

Spokesman Denies Surrender

LD121454 Dakar PANA in English 1415 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Kampala, 12 Dec (UNA/PANA) — A spokesman of the Uganda Military Council has refuted allegations by the National Resistance Army, NRA, that the besieged troops in Masaka Barracks, 80 miles south west of Kampala, have surrendered to the NRA. A government spokesman categorically refuted the claims by the NRA external coordinator, Mr Samson Kisseka, over the BBC, that Uganda Government troops in Masaka had surrendered to the NRA. He described the claim as provocative, malicious and a contemptible lie.

The truth of the matter, the spokesman said, is that the NRA has launched another attack on Masaka Barracks which government troops effectively repulsed, driving the NRA out of Masaka town.

The spokesman recalled the habit of war-mongering and actual attacks on government positions whenever peace talks are nearing conclusion. We regretted the NRA's lack of respect for the peace process in which the people of Uganda have invested a lot of hope and in which the government has put a lot of effort.

The spokesman further noted recent public statements by the NRA leader, Yoweri Museveni, in West Germany, in which he stated that he would not participate in what he described as a Kampala government. Museveni, he said, proposed totally a new agenda for the on-going peace talks in Nairobi demanding the setting up of a new political structure in Uganda, and threatening the use of force to impose himself on the people of Uganda.

The spokesman said it was most unfortunate for the NRA leadership to have come out with such provocative claims especially at a time when the chairman of the Military Council and head of state Gen. Tito Okello himself is set to travel to Nairobi to conclude the peace accord.

Government, the council spokesman concluded, is committed to achieve peace through a negotiated settlement and will spare no effort to achieve this goal. He however reiterated that government will not allow the NRA to use government commitment to peace to hold the entire country at ransom.

NRA Spokesman Comments

MB121118 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 11 Dec 85

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Once again the Kenyan president, Daniel arap Moi, has [words indistinct] the peace agreement between Uganda's Military Council and Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army [NRA] guerrillas later this week.

Meanwhile, militarily, it seems the Ugandan Government has had another setback. Just a few minutes ago, Dr Kiseka, the NRA's spokesman in Nairobi called us up to claim that there has been a fresh development at the army barracks in Masaka,

southwest of Kampala. Government soldiers have been holding out at the barracks for weeks although the town in controlled by the NRA. Rick Wells ask Dr Kiseka what the fresh development was.

[Begin recording] [Kiseka] This is an announcement by the chairman of the high command of the NRA that all the soldiers who had been besieged in Masaka military barracks have surrendered to the NRA and they have given up all their arms.

[Wells] Do you know what actually happened? Why did they give up now?

[Kiseka] Well, I think they found that it was hopeless because the UNLA [Uganda National Liberation Army] had failed to rescue them when they had given them all the promises thourghout this time.

[Wells] So, you mean they were starving?

[Kiseka] Well, they were starving.

[Wells] How many men are we talking about?

[Kiseka] Well, I can't tell you offhand exactly how many they were, but there were originally 1,200. Now the number has dwindled. Some have died, some have tried to escape, some have given up individually but I can't tell you the right number quite right now.

[Wells] So, what is going to happen to them now?

[Kiseka] Well, some of them who would like to stay with the NRA, they will stay. They have been assured of that, and others who want to go to Okello side, arrangements will be made.

[Wells] With Masaka now out of the way, what are your tactics going to be? are you going to concentrate on Kampala?

[Kiseka] No, it is not necessary because within two days, we will be signing an agreement and then there will be cease-fire.

[Wells] So, President Moi is saying this time that you will be signing on Friday. Do you think it is true?

[Kiseka] We hope so, yes. It must be true unless something happens because it would have been signed today but Okello didn't turn up. He said that he can't make it today but he will make it on Friday. [end recording]

Military Council Issues Statement on Signing of Accord

EA121552 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
12 Dec 85 p 1

[Report by Edward Kitaka: "Okello: We'll Sign the Accord if..."]

[Text] Kampala, Wednesday: Ugandan military leader General Tito Okello has accepted President Moi's invitation to come to Nairobi on Friday and sign a peace accord with Mr Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army [NRA], but said the actual signing will depend on the resolution of certain "outstanding issues."

A press release issued late this afternoon by the ruling Military Council said the NRA must, among other things, dissolve its "so-called interim administration" over western Uganda before the agreement can be signed. The declaration of such an administration, the press release said, "constituutes a grave threat to the integrity of Uganda. Uganda must remain a united country under one government and one administration," the press release said.

Other issues listed in the Military Council's statement include the composition of the new national Army, establishment of a joint implementation commiittee, invitation to the monitoring observer force, and the representation of the political parties on the Military Council.

On the new national Army, the Council said it could not accept the NRA proposal that the ratio to be followed in recruiting the nucleus of the new army, as per proposed agreement, should necessarily be followed in any future recruitment exercise.

This formula, the statement said, had been acceptd only for the prupose of making "an immediate start" and cannot be extended beyond that. Moreover, the statement went on, the formula would, is extended, negate the importance of creating a broad-based and representative national Army.

On the joint implementation committee, the Council suggested that this be deferred and be dealt with by the fully constituted Military Council in Kampala following the signing of the agreement.

Regarding the invitation to the monitoring observer force, the press release said the power to do this should be vested in the head of state of Ugunfa.

While agreeing that political parties which took part in the 1980 general election should be represented on the Military Council, the statement said this should only be done after consultation with the parties concerned.

Charging that throughout the peace talks in Nairobi the NRA had been making escalating demands while the government side was conceding, the press release said there was no reason why the guerrilla group could not accept the proposals from the government side. "The responsibility for resolving these outstanding issues now lies squarely with the NRA," the statement said.

Thanking President Moi for his efforts to bring peace in Uganda, during the last three months, the statement pointed out that the search for peace has been the chief preoccupation of the military government since it came to power on July 27.

UK Military Officers Due To Arrive in Kampala

EA050734 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English
5 Dec 85 p 28

["Uganda Mission for U.K. Advisors" by *STANDARD* correspondent, datelined "Kampala, Wednesday"]

[Text] A high-powered team of British military officers is due to arrive in Uganda to meet the leaders of the ruling Military Council to duscuss the possibility of taking over the advisory role on the disarming of Ugandan fighting groups.

The advisory services will be rendered once the agreement between the National Resistance Movement and the Military Council is signed in Nairobi, well-informed sources close to the Military Councul said today.

The six British Army generals [as published] have already met the Uganda peace delegation in Nairobi and discussed a number of points concerning the issue, the sources added.

British and Canadian troops will not however take part in disarming the fighting forces. Tanzania has accepted a role in the exercise on condition that Kenya also agrees to participate the sources said.

CAMEROON

Senegalese Minister Delivers Diouf Message to Biya

AB121245 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The head of state, His Excellency President Paul Biya, yesterday received in audience a Senegalese special envoy, Fambaye Fall Diop, who brought him a message from President Abdou Diouf. After the audience, Fambaye Fall Diop, who is the Senegalese minister of emigration, expressed her gratitude to the Cameroonian authorities for the hospitality accorded the Senegalese nationals living in Cameroon. Here is the interview Fambaye Fall Diop granted our reporter Michel Njop Abanda.

[Begin recording] [Diop] First of all, I would like to thank the head of state, President Paul Biya, the government and people of Cameroon for the reception accorded me since my arrival in Cameroon. I have brought a message from President Abdou Diouf of Senegal to his brother and friend, President Paul Biya. The message falls within the framework of the excellent relations of cooperation existing between our two countries....

[Abanda] Madame Minister, you held discussions with the head of state. Could you disclose the issues you discussed?

[Diop] You know that I am the minister of emigration, that is the minister of Senegalese living abroad, so I discussed issues relating to those emigrants who live in harmony with the Cameroonians, and I have made it a point to thank the head of state for the hospitality being enjoyed by the Senegalese with their Cameroonian brothers in this African country, which is their (?second homeland).

[Abanda] After President Abdou Diouf's visit to the Frontline States and the discussions he held with President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, what are the prospects of solutions concerning the apartheid problem in southern Africa on one hand, and the Chadian issue on the other?

[Diop] Well, concerning President Diouf's visit to the Frontline States, I think that it is an initiative appreciated by Africans in general, and (?that there is need) to combat the apartheid system. As for President [last word as heard] al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Senegal, it was through the Cameroonian media that I was informed since I left Dakar more than a week ago, and I do not have further information about it. [end recording]

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Former Premier Urges Ouster of Kolingba

AB121725 Paris AFP in French 1627 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Paris, 12 Dec (AFP) — Ange Patasse, former prime minister under former Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, and currently in exile in Togo, calls on all Central African nationals to "cause the overthrow" of the regime of President Andre Kolingba and "encourage the establishment of a civilian government of national union in the CAR."

In a letter to his lawyer in Paris, Francis Szpiner, a copy of which was given to AFP on Thursday, Mr Patasse also demands "the release of Francois Gueret, members of the Central African People's Liberation Movement (MLPC), and farmers in the Paoua region still under detention, as well as the freedom of movement for Abel Goumba and Patrice Endjimougou," notably.

Mr Patasse has been in exile in Togo since April 1982, when he received political asylum. He had been accused of involvement in the March 1982 attempted coup d'etat against President Kolingba led by General Alphonse Mbaikoua and Francois Bozize. Francois Gueret, former minister to President Kolingba and chairman of the MLPC, was arrested last (?February) and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on 31 July for "attack on state security" and "contempt for the head of state."

Abel Goumba, aged 58, former rector of the University of Bangui and chairman of the Ubangi Patriotic Front-Labor Party (FPO-PT — banned opposition party), was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment in April 1983. Released in August the same year, he was again arrested in January 1984 and placed under "house arrest" in the hinterland at the same time as secretary general of the FPO-PT, PT, Patrice Endjimougou.

After the attack by CAR opposition elements from Chad at the end of November 1984 on Markounda (northwestern CAR) which left four persons dead, the Central African army launched a vast operation notably in the Paoua region and made many arrests.

According to the humanitarian organization, Amnesty International, several cases of civilians being killed by the Army were reported from the Paoua region. Political activities have been banned in Central African Republic since September 1981, when General Kolingba came to power.

BURKINA FASO

Ouagadougou Reports Joint Communique on Libya Visit

AB112255 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Text] Following a friendly 72-hour visit to our country, the leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah left Ouagadougou this morning. Here is the joint communique issued at the end of this visit. It is read by Jean-Baptiste Ilboudo and Rock Parfait Ouedraogo:

In order to put in concrete form his militant support for the Burkinabe people's struggle and conslidate the good relations between the Libyan revolution and the democratic and popular revolution of Burkina Faso, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, made a friendly, brotherly, and revolutionary solidarity visit to Burkina Faso from 9 to 11 December 1985, corresponding to the period from 26 to 28 Rabi al-Awal 1395 of the death of Prophet Muhammad.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and the important delegation which accompanied him received a warm, fraternal, and militant welcome from the Burkinabe people mobilized and organized within the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and president of Burkina Faso, held several rounds of very high-level talks on bilateral relations and current African, Arab, and international issues. Present at the meetings on the Libyan side were Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Office, Dr Muhammad Sharif al-Din al-Fayturi, secretary of the People's Committee for Information and Culture, and Brother Muhammad al-Madani Elamani, secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Ouagadougou. On the Burkinabe side, present were Comrade Basile Guissou, minister of external relations and cooperation, Watamou Lamien, minister of information and culture, Beatrice Damiba, minister of environment and tourism, and (Sankara Mousbila), ambassador of Burkina Faso to Tripoli.

President Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR and president of Burkina Faso, briefed Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, on the revolutionary changes currently being made in the country in the fields of agriculture, water supply, housing, environmental sanitation, and health. Referring to the difficult struggle by his people to build a new society, Capt Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR and president of Burkina Faso, said he is confident of final victory. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution hailed the victories won by the militant Burkinabe people under the clear-sighted leadership of the CNR in the struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, and Zionism. He expressed his appreciation of the Burkinabe people's determination to pursue the struggle to defend and consolidate the fruits of the revolution.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, briefed Capt Sankara on the historical achievements made by the great Libyan revolution in the political, economic, and cultural fields. In particular, he informed him of the popular experience which enabled his people to gain power, riches, and weapons as well as achieve direct popular democratic process through people's congresses and people's committees. The Libyan leader expressed high praise and admiration for the revolutionary victories which enabled Burkina Faso to establish a true people's republic, material changes, and very advanced development in the organization process. He said this marked a step forward in the identification of the goals set by the 1 September Revolution and the 4 August Revolution.

Capt Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR, acknowledged the achievements made by the Libyan revolution and the very strong determination of the Libyan people in building a socialist Arab society and condemned the imperialist plots against the Arab people and the vain attempts to wreck the Libyan revolution.

The two sides agreed on the imperative need to cooperate in all fields in order to meet the essential demands of the masses and to consolidate the victories achieved by the two revolutions facing the increasingly fierce attacks of imperialism. On this issue, President Thomas Sankara reiterated the militant commitment of the Burkinabe people to the Libyan people's cause in their determined struggle to free themselves from the economic blockade and all sorts of pressures. He reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the brotherly people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to defend its land territory, its airspace, and its waters, notably the Gulf of Sidra, which forms an integral part of its territorial waters.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed his commitment to the Burkinabe people's struggle against the maneuvers of the imperialists and their local agents aimed at undermining and destabilizing the Burkinabe revolution.

On South Africa, the two parties condemned the odious system of apartheid which is considered a crime against all of humanity, and expressed their strong desire to do everything to ensure the total elimination of this plague. They pledge to stand together with the people of Africa to make 1986 a year of the final attack against apartheid, and of the proclamation of a democratic, free, and independent state in South Africa.

Concerning Namibia, the two parties reaffirmed their unfliching support for the just struggle of the Namibian people, under the courageous leadership of SWAPO. They demand from the United Nations, and particularly from the Security Council, the unconditional and immediate implementation of Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence, and reject the artificial and fallacious link between this independence and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The two parties expressed their solidarity with and decided to give their support to the Frontline States in the fight against aggression carried out by the racist Pretoria regime. They urgently call on all African peoples to give material and moral aid to these countries.

On Chad, the two parties vehemently condemn the neocolonialist intervention in this country, and support OAU decisions which

provide for a peaceful solution and national reconciliation between the various factions.

Concerning Western Sahara, they reaffirmed their support for the OAU resolutions which permit a just and lasting solution to this conflict.

Examining the Palestinian issue, the two parties reiterated their firm support for the Palestinian people who, under the leadership of the PLO, fight for the creation of a free and independent state in Palestine. They condemned the plots aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause. They strongly denounced the odious alliance between the racist Zionist entity in occupied Palestine and the racist South African regime which cooperate very closely, particularly in the nuclear sector. This represents a danger to peace and stability in Africa and the Arab world.

Reviewing the situation in Lebanon, the two parties strongly deplored the explosive situation prevailing in the region. They expressed their support for the just struggle of the Lebanese people, and called for the total and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces. The two parties reiteratedtheir faith in Afro-Arab cooperation for the mutual benefit of the Arab and African peoples. They condemned the attempts by reactionary forces to hinder this cooperation.

Examining the world political situation, the two parties reaffirmed their conviction of the need for the peoples to close ranks in their struggle against imperialism and for the advent of a peaceful and free world in conformity with the present aspirations of all the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In this regard, they express their militant support for all peoples fighting for their dignity and against imperialist domination. They reaffirmed their firm and resolved attachment to the principles of the charters of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement. They condemned the blackmail and attempts to weaken UN specialized agencies and demand the effective democratization of the structures of the organization which will make it possible to guarantee equality of rights and privileges of member-states.

The two parties expressed an identity of views on the right of peoples and states to demand just compensation for damages caused by colonization and the effects of imperialist wars which continue to obstruct the harmonious development of these peoples and states. To this effect, they agreed to undertake joint action to find an equitable solution to these problems.

Examining the world economic situation, the two parties emphasized the need for the establishment of a new world economic order, which will put an end to the economic domination and exploitation imposed on the developing countries by the great powers. In this regard, they underscored the importance of South-South cooperation.

The two parties expressed satisfaction with the atmosphere of frankness and revolutionary fraternity which prevailed throughout their discussions, and the positive results obtained in the economic, cultural, and information sectors. They stressed the need to continue such meetings in order to consolidate the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and Capt Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR and president of Burkina Faso, expressed satisfaction with the climate of frankness and revolutionary fraternity which characterized their discussions.

Capt Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR and president of Burkina Faso, expressed his satisfaction with the fraternal, friendly, and solidaristic visit paid to the African country of Burkina Faso by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, expressed gratitude to the CNR, the Burkinabe people, and their government for the revolutionary atmosphere and the militant sympathy which prevailed throughout his visit. He invited Capt Thomas Sankara to pay a friendly visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.The invitation was accepted with pleasure, and the date will be fixed later.

CAPE VERDE

Final Results of Legislative Elections Announced

AB121410 Paris AFP in French 1236 GMT 12 Dec 85

[All figures as received]

[Text] Praia, 12 Dec (AFP) — The sole list of 83 candidates presented by the "African Independence Party of Cape Verde" (the ruling PAICV) has won 94.5 percent of the votes cast in the 7 December legislative elections, according to the final results officially proclaimed by the Electoral Commission on Wednesday evening.

Of the 98,692 votes cast, 93,252 were in favor of the sole list and 5,038 or 5.1 percent were against. The invalid votes represented 0.4 percent (402 votes). A total of 143,303 persons registered for the elections but many of them could not vote because of the bad transcription of their names onto the electoral register, an official source has specified.

The 83 elected deputies including Mr Aristides Pereira, the president of the republic, will soon meet on a date not yet fixed to elect from among them the president of the Republic of Cape Verde. It is expected that Mr Pereira, who has led the country since its independence in July 1975, will be reelected. Similarly, Major Pedro Pires will probably be reelected prime minister.

GUINEA-BISSAU

3 Former Ministers Given New Government Posts

AB121148 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Bissau, Dec 12 (AFP) — Three former Guinea-Bissau ministers who were sacked for alleged complicity in a coup attempt or corruption have been given new posts of responsibility in the administration, officials said here today.

Joseph Turpin, former minister of trade and fisheries, who was sacked in January 1984 for alleged involvement in a plot by former Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria, has been made a state prosecutor.

Ex-Foreign Minister Samba Lamine Mane and former National Security Minister Manuel Saturnino da Costa, who were both dismissed in 1983 for embezzlement of public funds and corruption, have been named governors of the northern Cacheu and southern Tombali regions respectively.

Informed sources said all three had also been readmitted to the ruling party.

NIGERIA

Babangida Announces Rejection of IMF Loan

AB130931 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Address to the nation by President Ibrahim Babangida in Lagos on 12 December on Nigeria's refusal to accept an IMF loan — live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow Nigerians: From the onset when the Armed Forces Ruling Council decided to throw the question of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] loan open to debate, we did so in obedience to our absolute faith in the capability of Nigerians to rally round Nigeria in order to ensure the success of our great efforts to achieve national salvation through deep and lasting reforms of the state and a planned restructuring of our economy. We also believed that there is always a national awareness of the problems facing us and the need to solve them by ourselves.

The IMF debate has proved to be a unique occasion for the people of this country. Opinions have been expressed by a wide spectrum of the society. Each person acted to the best of his or her knowledge with the purest of motives and all in the interest of Nigeria. The debate cut across professional, sectoral, religious, and age groups. It has in particular helped to awaken the conscience of the nation and to raise our democratic ideals in a way that no other public issue has done in recent times. Without any doubt, the nation is the better for it and this augurs well for the future.

Nigeria applied to the IMF in 1983 for a balance of payments support loan as a result of the serious economic conditions in the country. The following dismal situation prevailed at the time the application for the loan was made:

Trade arrears of over 4 billion naira had accumulated; medium- and long-term loans stood at 10.6 billion naira; yearly budget deficit ranged from 427.4 million to 6.2 billion naira. The economy faced a negative growth in its gross domestic product while per capita income declined. Factories were operating far below their capacity while some even closed down because of shortage of raw materials and spare parts. Unemployment, inflation, and shortages increased. All of these conditions prevailed despite the fact that between 1979 and 1982, Nigeria earned a total sum of 44.77 billion naira from exports. The situation was [word indistinct] by the difficulties encountered in the refinancing of about 2 billion naira insured trade arrears, as our foreign creditors have insisted on Nigeria's adoption of the IMF adjustment program as a precondition for the refinancing.

On the 25th of September 1985, the presidential committee on the IMF loan was inaugurated with the specific task of conducting a national debate on the desirability or otherwise of Nigeria obtaining the loan. An interim report was submitted on the 3d of December 1985. From the interim report, it is clear that the IMF issue is basically one of whether this country should face the challenge of our economic recovery through a structural adjustment based entirely on the efforts of our citizens or through a combination of efforts and help by way of a loan from the IMF. To reconstruct the economy through the efforts of our citizens is both feasible and practicable. Opinions weighed very heavily in that direction in spite of the realization that this option will demand enormous sacrifice from all citizens. The debate has also revealed that there exists a body of opinion which recognizes that there is a limit to the sacrifice that citizens can be called upon to make and that, therefore, some help from the IMF would bring relief to the country during the difficult period of adjustment. The help from the IMF is, of course, not without conditions which in themselves involve enormous sacrifice. What is important in comparing the two broad options of obtaining or not obtaining the loan is the additional sacrifice entailed. It is not all clear from the evidence that the additional sacrifice involved by obtaining the loan is less than the additional sacrifice entailed in not taking the loan. But what is clear is that whichever option we take will involve a lot of sacrifices by our people.

After due consideration of all the opinions expressed by Nigerians and other residents as embodied in the interim report on the IMF loan, government has come to the conclusion that for now, the path of honor and the essence of democratic patriotism lies in discontinuing the negotiations with the IMF for a support loan. This is clearly the will of the majority of the people, of our people on the issue. We have therefore decided to face the challenge of restructuring our economy not through an IMF loan but a determination of our own people to make all the sacrifices necessary to put the economy on the path of sustained growth, doing so at our own pace and on our own volition.

In choosing this option, we affirm that we will continue to honor our legitimate and clearly established financial obligations within the limits of our financial resources and consistent with our fight for economic survival through self-reliance. We hope and expect that our genuine international friends and trading partners will respect and appreciate our decision and do everything severally and collectively to strengthen our friendship. We must now put the debate behind us.

There are no winners nor losers in the debate. We must all work together in the spirit of fellowship and in the interest of the nation.

That interest dictates that all hands must be on deck.

Our resources must be prudently and judiciously managed at all levels and in all spheres of our national life. We must curb our excessive demand for imported goods and patronize made-in-

Nigeria products. We must establish and patriotically defend the highest standards of probity in our commercial, public, and private relations. We must by ourselves and only on our terms do all those things which will help to restructure our economy, no matter what pains are involved during the adjustment period. That is the path of economic reconstruction, self-reliance, and democratic patriotism. Good-night.

Government Regrets Morocco's Decision To Leave OAU
AB111850 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Text] Nigeria has lamented Morocco's decision to withdraw from the OAU over the Western Sahara issue. An official statement in Lagos today said Nigeria would continue to support the OAU to ensure that the organization fulfills its obligation to the people of Africa. The government hopes Morocco would reconsider her decision and return to the organization in the near future. Morocco ceased to be member of the OAU from the 1st of last month.

SENEGAL

Soviet Minister Attends Cultural Week Opening
AB111740 Dakar Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Soviet culture week was opened this morning at St Marie de (Hann) school under the chairmanship of Abdel Kader Fall, the minister of culture, in the presence of his Soviet counterpart and the Soviet ambassador to Dakar and several other people. One of the main events which marked this ceremony was the inauguration of the school's lecture room.

ANGOLA

MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Meets

MB121237 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party has been meeting in Luanda since this morning presided over by its chairman, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos. The meeting is taking place in one of the Congress halls and it is being attended by all its members. This is the first meeting of the new Central Committee elected during the second MPLA-Labor party congress, which increased the number of the Central Committee membrs to 90.

New Political Bureau Announced

MB121945 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Final resolution of the first meeting of the new MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee in Luanda on 12 December]

[Text] Under the chairmanship of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People' Republic of Angola, the MPLA Central Committee has convened for the first time on 12 December and has elected its Political Burcau. In addition to Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee has elected the following comrades to the Political Bureau of the party:

Full members: Afonso Pedro van Dunem Mbinda; Antonio dos Santos Franca Ndalo; Francisco Magalhaes Paiva Ngumba; Juliao Mateus Paulo Dino Matross; Kundi Payama; Manuel Alexandre Duarte Rodrigues Kito; Pascoal Luvualu; Pedro de Castro dos Santos van Dunem Loy; Pdro Maria Tonha Pedale; Roberto Antonion Francisco de Almeida.

Candidate members: Antonio Jacinto do Amaral Moutinho and Maria Mambo Cafe. The meeting also approved the rules governing the functioning of the executive organ of the party until the next meeting of the Central Committee.

[Signed] Department of the Central Committee in Luanda on 12 December 1985, the year of the Second Congress of the MPLA-Labor Party.

LESOTHO

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Soviet Union

MB130606 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] The Soviet Union and Lesotho have signed an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation in Moscow yesterday. The document was signed by the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, and the Lesotho foreign minister, Mr V.M. Makhele, who is also general secretary of the Basotho National Party, BNP, on an official visit to the Soviet Union.

In an interview with a NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY correspondent, Mr Makhele said that the government and people of Lesotho have taken this event seriously, and said that he felt that the agreement would help the two countries to achieve a better understanding of each other. Mr Makhele said the agreement marked the beginning of fruitful and mutually advantageous cultural, scientific, and technical copperation between the Soviet Union and Lesotho. He said the agreement covered the fields of education, science, culture, sports, television, and radio. Mr Makhele said under this agreement, the Soviet Union and Lesotho will exchange films, tours of artists, and groups of scientists and cultural workers.

Mr Makhele said the signing of the agreement, which would bring Soviet development aid to Lesotho, testified to the fast development of relations between the Soviet Union and Lesotho.

MOZAMBIQUE

Changes Made to Council of Ministers Composition

MB121006 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The People's Assembly Standing Commission has approved two laws introducing changes to the composition of the Council of Ministers and economic associations. Accordingly, the Council of Ministers now comprises the president of the republic, who is the leading figure, the ministers, and deputy ministers. Previously, the law stated that the governor of the Bank of Mozambique and the director of the people's security national service were also included in the Council of Ministers.

The second law determines that state enterprises and cooperatives cannot affiliate themselves into economic associations and private enterprises [words indistinct]. However, if there are economic or other benefits as a direct result of the affiliation, the planning minister may authorize such an affiliation, the law approved by the People's Assembly Standing Commission added.

SOUTH AFRICA

Charges Against Eight Newsmen in Cape Dropped

MB121826 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1825 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Cape Town, Dec 12, SAPA — Charges against eight local and foreign journalists arrested while reporting on a student rally at the University of the Western Cape in October, were today withdrawn in the Bellville Magistrates Court by order of the attorney-general. No reasons were given for the withdrawal.

Although no charges were put to the journalists, evidence was that they were to be charged with: assault, attending an illegal gathering, impeding the police in the execution of their duty and photographing awaiting-trial prisoners.

The eight newsmen are: Mr Rafiq Rohan, 32, of Capital Radio News, Mr Wim de Vos, 38, and Mr Anton van der Merwe 22, of CBS, Mr George de Arth, 33, and Mr John Hall, 47, of NBC,

Mr Pierre Romalero, 26, and Mr Craig Mathews, 27, of WIN, and Mr Bernard Bisson, 33 of SYGMA.

Trial of Port Elizabeth Journalists Postponed
MB121621 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1513 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Port Elizabeth, Dec 12, SAPA — The trial in which the editor of the Eastern Province *HERALD*, Mr J.C. Viviers, and a reporter, Miss Juliette Saunders, are charged with contravening the police act, was postponed today until February 28 after the defence closed its case. The state alleged Mr Viviers and Miss Saunders contravened Section 27b(1) of the Police Act on November 10, 1984, by publishing statements about police actions without having reasonable grounds for believing them to be true. The charges stem from the *HERALD*'s coverage of the funeral of an unrest victim in Grahamstown on November 9.

Finance Minister Sees 3 Percent Growthrate in 1986
MB120828 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0755 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Dec 12, SAPA — Predictions of a three percent growth rate next year brought the prospect of things becoming a "bit easier" for the man in the street, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said today. He told SABC radio the growth rate had to be viewed in perspective.

"Well obviously, when we talk about a real growth rate of three percent then we must see it in its full perspective. That is namely that there will be a growth in the population, so that the increase in the overall wealth will be spread."

Troop Carrier Hits Land Mine in Messina
MB121816 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1815 GMT
12 Dec 85

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 12, SAPA — An armoured troop carrier detonated a land mine during a "routine patrol" in the Messina area this afternoon, SADF headquarters announced in Pretoria tonight. One soldier was slightly injured in the incident which happened at about 2 pm, in same area where mines were lifted and detonated about two weeks ago. The mine was planted in the middle of a dirt road and was of the same origin as the others, the statement said. It added that the troop carrier was hit as "a result of continued efforts to ensure the security of the Messina area."

No further details were immediately available.

Three Soldiers Returned from Mozambique
MB121929 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1918 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Pretoria, Dec 12, SAPA — Three South African soldiers held by Mozambique authorities since September are back home, the SADF said tonight. The three went missing from their unit in the Eastern Transvaal along the Mozambique border on September 12. A defence spokesman said tonight the men had been in the hands of the Mozambique authorities since September 23.

Pretoria Businesses Hurt by Consumer Boycott
MB121510 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1400 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] A boycott of white-owned businesses in Pretoria is biting hard. Many shopkeepers are facing bankruptcy if the stayaway continues and traders are appealing to the Chamber of Commerce to intervene. They say some businessmen will lose their living if the boycott lasts till the new year, and spokesmen for large businesses in the area have called for dialogue as a possible means of saving the situation. The boycott was called after unrest in Mamelodi recently in which 13 people were killed.

Meanwhile, the Pretoria Consumer Boycott Committee has appealed to militant township youths to stop intimidating residents and not to destroy confiscated provisions bought from white-owned shops. There is a growing outcry from black consumers who have been harrased by youths and the confiscated food is supposed to be donated to the needy.

Business Insolvencies Double Over Last Year
MB120905 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The number of insolvencies in South Africa has more than doubled in the first 9 months of this year over the same period last year. Figures released by the Central Statistical Services show that there was a 107 percent increase in insolvencies from Janurary to September this year. The value of these insolvencies was about 59 million rand as compared to about 22 million rand for the first 9 months of 1984. The figures also show that for the first time in 5 years compulsory liquidations of companies have outnumbered voluntary liquidations. Altogether more than 2,300 individuals and companies were liquidated up until September this year.

WEEKLY MAIL Carries 'Apartheid Barometer'
MB092005 Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English
6-12 Dec 85 p 4

["Apartheid Barometer"]

[Text]

STATE OF EMERGENCY DETENTIONS
(July 22-November 28)

Number of people detained so far:	7,006
Number released:	5,777
Number still held:	1,229

(These figures are higher than those released by SAPA. The reason is that the SAPA statistics do not take into account the 745 children arrested under the Emergency regulations in

Soweto early in the emergency).

DEATHS IN TOWNSHIP CONFLICT
(South African Institute of Race Relations figures)

February 1984-December 3 1985:	965
September 1984-December 3 1985:	937
January 1985-December 3 1985:	788
July 22 1985-December 3 1985:	454
November 1-November 30 1985:	99
November 25-December 3 1985:	28
1985 before July 22 (when emergency was declared):	1.67 per day
Average since July 22:	3.44 per day
Last week's average:	3.50 per day

INFANT MORTALITY RATES
(ie the mortality rate per 1000 live births in first year after birth)

(Government statistics, 1982)

African	80
Indian	20.7
Coloured	59.2
White	13.4

WELFARE EXPENDITURE
Welfare budgets (in rands)

	1983/4	1984/5
Africans	228,432,000	241,227,000
Whites	497,828,000	529,244,000
Coloureds	287,019,000	303,427,000
Indians	76,992,000	81,460,000

Child Welfare budget

	1983/4	1984/5
Africans	9,118,400	7,031,000
Coloured	91,429,200	96,082,000
Indian	29,694,000	28,817,000
White	75,995,900	78,984,000

EDUCATION
(1984/5 financial year)

African education in white designated areas	709,257,000
Education in non-independent homelands	358,553,743
Education in "independent" homelands	392,251,500
Coloured education	570,521,000
Indian education	259,334,000
White education	2,465,155,000

ACADEMIC STAFF AT UNIVERSITIES (1984)

White:	9,492
Indian:	290
Coloured:	129
African:	423

BANNED BOOKS

There were no new banned books this week.

Unrest, Incidents of Violence Reported

12 Dec Police Report

MB121754 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1746 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 12, SAPA — The SA Police 7pm unrest situation report:

Soweto: Two delivery vehicles valued at R33,000 were today robbed and set alight. The SAP made use of birdshot to disperse the attackers. Three black males under 18 were arrested. In other incidents, a private vehicle was set alight and stones thrown at a passenger bus.

Eastern Province: At Joza near Grahamstown, a private home was petrol-bombed, but the bomb failed to ignite. At Tinius near Fort Beaufort, slight damage was done to a shop when it was set alight by arsonists.

South-Western Districts: At Hofmeyer Railway station the SAP this afternoon made use of birdshot and sjamboks to disperse a mob of blacks which had thrown stones at a train. West Rand: At Mahlakeng a driver of a delivery vehicle was robbed of R300 and his vehicle set alight.

Police, Army Operation in Khayelitsha

MB131225 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1223 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Cape Town, Dec 13, SAPA — About 1000 troops and police swooped on Site C at Khayelitsha today in the sixth major security force operation in the peninsula in 16 days. After the operation began about 10am police investigation teams moved among the shacks to identify and arrest those responsible for recent acts of unrest in the area, a police spokesman said. It is understood that a anumber of people were detained for questioning, but it was not confirmed.

Amnesty for Surrendering Firearms

MB120931 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0924 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 12, SAPA — The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, has granted an amnesty until February 28 for all who have unlicensed firearms in their possession to hand them over to the nearest police station without any fear of arrest. He said in a government gazette on December 10 that in the case of those possessing weapons such as machine-guns, hand grenades, mortars, explosives et cetera, the various attorneys-general have directed prosecutors under them not to institute proceedings so long as these are handed over to the police within that period. In the case of firearms it will be possible to apply for a licence at the time of surrendering them. He warned that sentences as long as 15 years jail without the option could be imposed for the illegal possession of arms ammunition. The amnesty was issued under the provisions of section 10(A) of the arms and ammunition act.

26 Arrested at Kuils River

MB121914 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1901 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Cape Town, Dec 12, SAPA — Twenty-six people were arrested in a joint police/military and Western Cape Development Board "crime prevention" swoop in the Mfuleni township outside Kuils River last night. This was confirmed today by the police liaison officer for the Western Province, Lt Attie Laubscher, who said about 160 men had taken part in the operation from 11.30pm yesterday to 5am today. He said seven of those held were arrested in connection with cases of theft and armed robbery while the remaining 19 — four adults and 15 youths — were arrested in connection with one case of arson. Lt Louscher said the operation was aimed at specific suspects and there had been no house-to-house searches.

Transkei Visitors Subject to Arrest

MB120623 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0610 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Durban, Dec 12, SAPA — Visitors to Transkei face arrest if they pass though the country between the curfew hours of 10pm and 5am without a permit, according to the police liaison officer, Colonel Mxoliso Jumba. Permits are only obtainable from a magistrates office or from a police charge office in Transkei.A holiday along the Transkei coast could be disrupted if the violation occurrred on a Friday, because the offenders would be held in custody until their court appearance on Monday.

Institute on Death Statistics

MB120856 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0841 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 12, SAPA — Unrest has claimed the lives of 816 people this year according to figures released by the institute of race relations. A spokesman for the institute said that since the state of emergency was imposed on July 21 this year, 482 people had died in incidents of unrest. In 1984, 175 people died in unrest but 149 of the victims were killed between September and December of that year. The spokesman said that 131 people had died since the clampdown on media coverage of unrest was imposed on November 2 this year.

21 Arrests in Constable Murder

MB121418 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1330 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Pretoria, Dec 12, SAPA — Police have arrested at least 21 people from Mamelodi in connection with the murder of black police constable, whose badly mutilated and charred body was found in a strip of veld near the Pretoria township two days ago. The body of 23-year-old Constable Ndlalane, who was attached to the Pretoria Moot Police Division, was found by passers-by in a stretch of veld early on Tuesday morning. A police spokesman said earlier that Constable Ndlalane's body had been mutilated almost beyond recognition before being set alight.

12 Released in Cape Town

MB121434 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1420 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Cape Town, December 12, SAPA — Twelve Cape Town detainees, including a prominent advocate, Mr Dullah Omar, were released today. Mr Omar was issued with a banning order on his release from Victor Verster prison near Paarl. The banning order, which is to remain in force until the state of emergency ends, restricts Mr Omar to the Wynberg Magisterial District, prohibits him from taking part in the activities of the United Democratic Front, from entering the premises of any educational institution, or being involved in any publication, and from attending gatherings where the government is criticised and at which any black local authority is attacked or criticised.

Police Report 13 Dec

MB130626 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0625 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 13, SAPA — Following is the 8am "unrest report," received by SAPA at 8:19 am:

"Unrest incidents which occurred yesterday afternoon and late evening were mostly confined to Soweto on the Witwatersrand, with sporadic incidents in the black residential area near Pretoria.

"In Soweto, arsonists caused extensive damage when they set fire to furniture at the Zinhelile School. In two other incidents, blacks stopped vehicles, threatened the black drivers with knives and drove off with the vehicles. Both vehicles are still missing. Arsonists also set fire to two motor cars which were both destroyed.

"In Atteridgeville near Pretoria, arsonists detroyed a bus and in a second incident the police fired tear smoke to disperse a group of stonethrowers. Five black men were arrested in the latter incident.

"In the black residential town of Stutterheim in the border area, arsonists set fire to a private house, which was totally destroyed.

"In Port Elizabeth, a policeman died in hospital from burn wounds he sustained on Nov 26, during a petrol-bomb attack on a home he was guarding at the time.

"There are at present 712 persons in detention in terms of the emergency regulations."

Police Reportedly Support Vigilantes in Cape Township

MB120636 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2024 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Cape Town, Dec 11, Sapa — A group of at least 16 vigilantes has embarked on a reign of terror in the Zolani township outside Ashton in the Southern Cape, according to sworn affidavits from residents who claim the local police are

implicated in the groups actions. Members of the PFP [Progressive Federal Party] unrest monitoring group, the Black Sash and the Montagu/Ashton Gmeenskapsdiens [Social Services] [MAG] spent most of today gathering statements from the witnesses and victims of alleged violent attacks by the vigilantes over the past six weeks. The names of certain black community councillors are among those which re-occur in almost every affidavit.

Press Reportage, Commentary on Recent Events

[Editorial Report] Increasing Number of Insolvencies

Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 12 December carries a report by Helen Simpson on the growing number of insolvencies, which have increased by 107.6 percent in the first 9 months of 1985 compared to the same period of 1984. The fact that compulsory liquidations outnumbered voluntary ones "indicated that many companies were hanging on to the bitter end;" according to the managing director of a credit bureau. Simpson reports that the highest number of insolvencies was in the Transvaal with 1,221, followed by the Cape with 547, the Orange Free State with 388, and Natal with 180.

CITIZEN on Black Boycotts

In its editorial, *THE CITIZEN* discusses black consumer boycotts. While the aim of the boycotts may be to put pressure on businessmen to put pressure on the government to bring about change, all the boycotts accomplish is "to put some small businesses out of existence (and black staff employed by these businesses out of their jobs)." Black consumers are also hurt by boycotts, since they cannot purchase goods at the cheapest price. Moreover, the goods blacks buy in the townships "are produced mainly by white firms, so there is no real meaning to any 'Buy Black' campaign. The editorial says that its greatest objection to the consumeer boycotts is that they add to the "unemployment and suffering of blacks at a time when every job is precious." "South Africa is changing, and more change is coming, but the process will not be accelerated by unrest and boycotts but by a return to normal conditions," it concludes.

DIE VADERLAND on Black Boycotts

Johannesburg *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans on 11 December says in an article that "it is predicted that the consumer boycott is going to be used in the future more and more as a nonviolent form of protest by blacks." This is very bad news for white business and the economy. This form of protest is not new in South Africa and it was used by Americans in the 1940's. The black consumer is thus using a power factor which has to taken into consideration — a factor that could force white businessmen and finally the government to listen.

BEELD on U.S. Congressmen

Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 12 December says in an article that "a pressure group of American congressmen want to visit South Africa next week to find out what is going on in South Africa regarding the television news blackout." The group has been invited by Bishop Desmond Tutu. They have asked for an interview with President P.W. Botha, but thus far the interview has not be granted, *BEELD* was told yesterday. Few details of the visit are known.

U.S. Businessmen's Statement

In an article in the same issue, *BEELD* says: "American businessmen in South Africa have warned in a strongly worded statement that unless the state of emergency is lifted, the potential for the demolition of the South African framework will have serious consequences for this country." In a statement issued by the American Chamber of Commerce, its chairman says the chamber has always maintained that the state of emergency is regarded by the business community as a deplorable necessity.

BEELD on U.S. Aid to UNITA

In an editorial in the same issue, *BEELD* says "The train of negotiation is again on the move according to the Americans" regarding the Cuban withdrawal and a solution to the Namibian independence question. If the talks take a long time, blame should be laid at the door of the Americans because of their hesitation to act positively. Besides talk of help to UNITA, nothing concrete has come from that quarter. In contrast, the Soviet Union is giving undisguised support to the MPLA government in Angola. From January next year the United States hopes to give UNITA $30 million dollars worth of aid, which undoubtedly will be done in secret. What the United States hopes to achieve by this is still not clear. Concluding, the editorial says: "The United States will achieve nothing with a fickle attitude. It is deeds that count and not words or secret promises."

Union on Multinationals

The *STAR* reports from London that delegation from the Metal and Allied Workers Union, representing the newly formed COSATU, has told the British Trades Union Conress that disinvestment is unacceptable if it means multinationals will withdraw all company assets from South Africa. "We strongly support any pressure, but we would not accept multinationals pulling out their assets, because these belong to the workers. The assets are the product of the workers of South Africa." The report says the delegation urged more British firms to join the boycott of South African goods and rejected the view this would make conditions worse for blacks. "That is the argument put forward by the multinationals but when they introduced new technology and machinery, they left thousand unemployed — but this they never considered," the delegation said.

Shell Spokesman on Apartheid

In another report from London, the *STAR* quotes a spokesman for Royal Dutch Shell as maintaining that Shell's wholly owned subsidiary, Shell South Africa, is "among the forerunners of enlightenment in South Africa." The statement follows an announcement in Washington that the American anti-apartheid lobby is poised to launch a global campaign against the company "in a new drive to embarass multinational companies" doing business in South Africa.

Star on International Criticism

In an editorial, the *STAR* notes the "international bombast" against South Africa this week: the UN authorizing a world conference on sanctions; the Franco-African summit giving priority to anti-apartheid action; the State Department confirming increased pressure on South Africa to get out of Namibia; and President Reagan demanding concrete areas of reform.

"Ho-hum, we have heard it all before. Or have we? No, we haven't," the editorial says. The days of empty rhetoric are ending. "The threats are real, they are critical and we ignore them at our peril," the editorial continues. "We cannot afford the lame progress to our own reform goals that has satisfied the Government up to now. Most of all, we can't afford petulant leaders who think overseas pressure is a good excuse for not doing anything," the editorial concludes.

STAR on Brutality Allegations

In another editorial, the *STAR* says the forces of law and order should contain and prevent violence, not compete in or perpetuate it. "Yet, it does seem necessary to reinforce the point regularly," the editorial says, noting that "allegations of Army and Police brutality are all too frequent."

BUSINESS DAY on Tax Cuts

Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English for 12 December says in an editorial that "there are now compelling reasons for the government to consider substantial tax reductions." It goes without saying, the editorial says, "that lower taxes will in the short-term necessitate also a substantioal reduction in the capital expenditure programmes of the public corporations, especially the railways and Escom [Electricity Supply Commission]." "We know these cuts will be dificult. But they must be made or else the private sector will be crowded out of the capital markets," the editorial says. "The electricity and rail lords are not going to like it. But they must be persuaded that they are, after all, in service industries and that customers come first."

SOWETAN on Boycott Committees' Credentials

In an editorial entitled "Confusion," the 12 December Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English comments on the confusion among the black community over the consumer boycott call. Some support the boycott, others reject it while "others still are plunged into confusion and possibly fear." The editorial addresses the Reef Consumer Boycott Committee's call for a boycott, acknowledgement of its failure and call for another shorter boycott extending through December. The boycott committee faces some serious problems which must be addressed, the editorial says.